

Dodi, Diana have affair, destined for tragic end — Kashoggi

GENEVA — Billions of dollars have been spent on the search for a cure for the disease. The search has been a long and arduous one, but the results have been disappointing. The search has been a long and arduous one, but the results have been disappointing.

Lensmen buying anti-paparazzi Clooney

NEW YORK — A group of photographers have been buying anti-paparazzi devices to protect their subjects. The devices are designed to prevent photographers from taking pictures of their subjects without their consent.

Danish bishop refuses to meet with Muslims

VIBORA — A Danish bishop has refused to meet with a group of Muslims. The bishop said that he did not want to meet with them because they were not interested in his teachings.

Mafia bosses using Internet to launder money

ROME — Mafia bosses are using the Internet to launder money. They are using the Internet to communicate with each other and to transfer money between different banks.

CRIMINALS — Criminals are using the Internet to find new victims. They are using the Internet to find people who are looking for a job or a house, and then they are trying to trick them into giving them money.

U.S., Israel, Turkey navy exercise postponed

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A joint naval exercise in the Mediterranean involving ships from Turkey, Israel and the U.S. has been postponed at Israel's request, a U.S. Navy spokesman said Tuesday. "Reliant Mermaid," a search and rescue exercise scheduled to be held Nov. 16-20, has been delayed until sometime in January, Navy Lieutenant Patrick L. Moore said. Israel, which initiated and organized the exercise, notified the U.S. navy that it was being postponed because of a conflict in scheduling, Moore said. A number of Arab countries have criticized the exercise, which followed a 1996 military cooperation accord between Israel and Turkey. The exercise is to involve a small number of naval vessels from each country and several helicopters and search aircraft, Lt. Moore said.

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Government suspends publication of 7 weeklies; more suspensions expected

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government yesterday dispatched official orders to seven weekly newspapers to suspend publication, after deeming it non-compliance with amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law. Sources at the weekly newspapers confirmed that Wednesday evening, Al Majd, Al Mithaq, Al Hadath, Al Bilad, Sawt Al Mara'a, Al Sayad, and Hawadeth Al Sa'a were served notifications from the Department of Press and Publications (PPD) at the Ministry of Information that, in accordance with the press law, they are to suspend publication for their failure to comply with Article 24 of the law — which requires all weekly newspapers to raise their capital to JD300,000.

The suspension takes

efforts as of Sept. 23 for three months and if weekly newspapers fail to rectify their situations by that time, amendments to the law, enacted as temporary legislation in May, allow the government to revoke their licences.

In a statement to the press, Al Mithaq accused the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of "misuse of authority" and said that the aim of the government is to "exercise repressive policies" and "stifle the national opposition."

Journalists and the opposition have accused the government of enacting the temporary legislation in order to "silence the press" in the run up to parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 4.

It is expected that at least eight more papers will be served today with similar notifications. Of 21 weekly papers, sources within the industry expect a total of 18

to be suspended, among them, the Islamist weekly, Al Saheel.

Editors and owners of weekly newspapers were not surprised by the notifications after having been engaged in a month's long battle with the government over the capital requirement.

Newspapers, registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, have insisted that they have complied with the law, and in August, Ministry of Trade and Industry officials said that most newspapers had registered and provided documentation regarding capital in accordance with the Companies Law. The Ministry of Information then requested to review, for the first time since the enactment of the 1993 press law, the financial ledgers of weekly newspapers.

Although yesterday's four-line notification from the PPD said that the newspapers

were in violation of the article dictating the capital requirement, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said Tuesday that the committee charged with reviewing the papers' financial status "found many financial and other legal violations and that some newspapers presented inaccurate documentation which the committee is... examining and may refer to the courts."

President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Seif Sherif told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the "expression of the PPD was not very clear as to the reasons for suspension" and that the JPA will try today to gain an audience with PPD Director Mohammad Amin for further explanation of the government's decision.

Mr. Sherif also said that the JPA council will meet this morning to "discuss how to deal with the problem," and

that the JPA would most likely request a meeting with Ministry of Information officials or Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. A similar request from the JPA more than one week ago was not accommodated.

Five weekly newspapers — Al Hadath, Al Bilad, Al Saheel, Al Majd and Sawt Al Mara'a — have already filed a lawsuit against the government for enacting the amendments to the law "unconstitutionally." The government Tuesday asked the court to reject the case.

Mr. Sherif said that the JPA would not be supporting these weeklies in their efforts.

The JPA has been lukewarm towards the weeklies' predicament with the government, although JPA members from weekly newspapers constitute at least 25 per cent of the association's membership.



The parents of Yussef Shouli (Jamil and Fatima) show his picture in a local newspaper in the West Bank town of Asira Shamaliya Wednesday. Palestinians in this town live in fear of retaliation by the Israeli army after four residents were identified as the bombers of the two suicide attacks in Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Netanyahu vows to bolster settlements; PNA starts major crack down on Hamas

Combined agency dispatches

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Wednesday to sink Israeli roots deeper into the West Bank, defying a U.S. appeal for a "time-out" in Jewish settlement expansion.

The Israeli premier promised Jewish religious teenagers in Eilat that his government would build 300 more homes in their West Bank settlement and others throughout the lands occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

"We are building in Judea and Samaria," Mr. Netanyahu told the hundreds of youngsters, using the Biblical names for the West Bank, "and we are building in Eilat."

"You don't need binoculars. You can stand here outside and see what is happening in the Etzion Bloc. It is happening also in other

places," he said at the celebration marking 30 years of Jewish settlement in the Etzion Bloc south of Jerusalem.

"The land of Israel is constantly being built up before my eyes, and also before your eyes, you can see it. And it's good that it is being built up and it will continue being built up," he said in reference to Biblical Israel including the West Bank.

The settlement's Rabbi Shlomo Riskin appealed to Mr. Netanyahu to let Eilat expand its borders to Jerusalem some 20 km away. A schoolgirl gave Mr. Netanyahu a knitted religious skullcap which he promptly placed on his head.

Taking action after Israel offered proof that four of its West Bank members carried out recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Palestinian police rounded up members from the

Hamas movement Wednesday, officials said.

About 20 members of Hamas were arrested in the northern West Bank city of Nablus within hours of Israel's announcement Tuesday that DNA tests had proven that four of five suicide bombers who killed 20 Israelis in attacks over the past eight weeks came from a nearby town.

Security officials said police were searching in particular for three students and a mechanic from the same town, Asira Shamaliya, which remains under the control of the Israeli army.

"It's not our responsibility," Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said, noting that the bombers' town was "under total Israeli security control."

But there were also indications of a much-awaited turnabout by the Palestinian leadership, which for weeks has rejected Israeli

demands for a vast crackdown on Hamas, which is violently opposed to peace with Israel.

In addition to the arrests in Nablus, where Israel claims the bombers received their instructions, a top aide to Mr. Arafat offered his resignation to take responsibility for the PNA's earlier reluctance to hit out at Hamas.

Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the PNA secretary general, told Mr. Arafat late Tuesday he would resign for having forwarded reports from "reliable" sources that the suicide bombers came from abroad, a senior Palestinian official told Agence France Presse (AFP).

Mr. Abdul Rahim also took responsibility for a "national dialogue" meeting in Mr. Arafat held with senior Hamas officials during which the

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Clinton maintains opposition to easing U.N. sanctions against Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday said he would continue to oppose any easing of sanctions against Iraq as long as Baghdad fails to meet U.N. demands including those concerning arms inspections.

"During the last 60 days, the government of Iraq has continued to fail to fully disclose its programmes for weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Clinton said in a letter to Congress released by the White House.

Mr. Clinton said Washington awaits the Oct. 11 publication of a U.N. arms inspector's report on Iraqi cooperation.

"While some nations have begun to display sanctions' fatigue, the U.S. remains committed to sanctions enforcement," Mr. Clinton continued without mentioning a particular nation.

In recent months, U.S. officials have criticised the willingness of France and Russia to relax international sanctions set by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

"We shall continue to oppose any suggestion that the sanctions regime should be modified or lifted before Iraq demonstrates its peaceful intentions by complying with its [U.N.] obligations," the letter said.

Mr. Clinton also said that illegal smuggling of Iraqi gasoline from the Shatt Al Arab waterway continues to increase at an alarming rate.

"We now estimate that over 150,000 metric tonnes of gasoline each month is exported from Iraq" in violation of U.N. actions, he said.

"The smugglers use the territorial waters of Iran with the complicity of the Iranian government that profits from charging protection fees for these vessels to avoid interception by the Multinational Interception Force in international waters," Mr. Clinton charged.

Crown Prince says Jordan made major strides towards global integration

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said yesterday that Jordan has made major strides towards integration with the global economy, started privatising state-owned enterprises, enacted laws to attract investments and embarked on reforms to ensure sustainable development and prosperity.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the opening of a two-day international conference on "aviation infrastructure for growth and efficiency," Prince Hassan noted that the Kingdom was "on the

way towards integrating its economy into the global economy and introducing reforms that can ensure a competitive and attractive investment environment. We have already initiated an association agreement with the European Union and started negotiations for our accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and our investment laws offer investors numerous incentives like tax exemptions, free repatriation of capital and no ceiling on foreign ownership in the public shareholding companies listed at the Amman Financial Market."

Referring to aviation ser-

vices, Prince Hassan stressed that "it will play a leading role in ensuring the competitiveness and profitability of our trade. The efficiency and cost-effectiveness of transportation and related infrastructure will thus become an even more important factor for locating private investment, which is increasingly becoming the vehicle for propelling economic growth."

Stressing Jordan's keenness on joining the world's trend to limit the state's monopoly and give more power to the private

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Governments sets reward for leads on Deir Ghbar attack at JD50,000

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government has set a JD50,000 reward to any person who submits any information that could lead to identifying those who attacked two Israeli embassy security-men on Monday, informed sources told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Moshe Levin and Amikam Hadar were slightly injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire at the Israeli guards in Deir Ghbar in the first such inci-

dent against Israeli embassy officials. The two officials were flown to Tel Aviv on Tuesday after being treated for injuries they sustained during the attack.

Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid said Wednesday that investigations were still continuing.

"Our intensified efforts are still going on and we give this matter top priority. We will not reveal any information now about our investigation," Mr. Rashid told the Jordan Times.

He said that he believes

that those who committed the act will be arrested "soon." He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Rashid was quoted by Al Ra'i daily Wednesday as saying that the police department has listed 7,800 Hyundai cars in Jordan, of which 550 were identical to the car used in the attack.

A government statement on Monday said that people in a passing "pinkish white" Hyundai car fired at the Nissan car, driven by the Israeli guards.

Arab League meeting achieved Arab consensus — Tarawneh

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh has described the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers meeting at the Arab League in Cairo last week as extremely satisfactory noting that there was consensus among Arab countries on the agenda.

Dr. Tarawneh who is currently in New York attending the U.N. General Assembly meetings said that the Middle East question won the largest portion of the discussions adding that the Arab countries were unanimous in assessing as successful the results of a trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "albeit it achieved little steps." The foreign ministers

agreed to build on the positive aspects of these little steps with the purpose of encouraging the U.S. administration to undertake effective stands vis-a-vis the peace process and ensure the resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations on all tracks, Dr. Tarawneh said.

He said the foreign ministers have reaffirmed resolutions passed by the Arab summit meeting of 1996 which stressed that the peace process is a strategic option for the Arab World and criticised the Israeli government's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as Israel's escalation of tension in southern Lebanon.

Referring to the Arab ministers' decision to lift air sanctions on Libya, Dr. Tarawneh said that they took into account humanitarian and religious considerations in passing their resolutions, adding that the sanctions were regarded as inhumane and directed against the people rather than the regime.

The Arab League's stand in this regard, he added, should not be considered a violation of U.N. resolutions in view of these considerations.

As to relations with Turkey, Dr. Tarawneh noted that the Arab states considered Turkey as a friend

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Russia opposes 'monopoly' on Mideast peacemaking, slams Israel on deadlock

Combined agency dispatches

RUSSIAN FOREIGN Minister Yevgeny Primakov, in a thinly veiled dig at the United States, said Tuesday no single country should monopolise peace making in the Middle East.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, he also said no government should support terrorism in any form, but neither should individual U.N. members be perpetually stigmatised as international rogues regardless of changes in their policies or "because of their suspected links to terrorists."

"In the present-day world, no country should hold a monopoly on any conflict resolution effort. This fully applies to the longest-standing conflict in the Middle East where the settlement process has been stalemated," Mr. Primakov said.

"As the saying goes, 'it

takes two hands to applaud.' Broad-based international efforts are needed to undo the tight Middle East knot," he said, signalling Moscow's wish to play a more prominent role in helping resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, where Washington has long predominated.

Mr. Primakov said Russia, as one of the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process launched at a 1991 conference in Madrid, was "prepared to cooperate actively with everyone to attain this goal."

Earlier on Tuesday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin blamed Israel for a deadlock in Middle East peace talks and called on the U.S. to apply pressure on its ally to get the process back on track.

(Continued on page 7)

Easing Libya ban weakens U.N. on Israel — Cook

UNITED NATIONS (R) — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Tuesday if the Arab League set aside a U.N. resolution imposing an air embargo against Libya it would also weaken resolutions on Israel.

"First of all, I think it is very unwise of any particular group of member states to set aside a United Nations resolution," Mr. Cook told a news conference at the United Nations.

"If any group decides it is going to ignore a U.N. resolution, then that decision undermines the authority of all U.N. resolutions."

"And I would invite the Arab League to reflect on whether they really wish to persist with this course, given that, of course, one of

the consequences of it will be that it will undermine the authority of the U.N. resolutions on Israel, which I would not have thought would be in the interest of the Arab World."

Mr. Cook, attending the U.N. General Assembly, was answering questions on a decision last weekend by the Arab League to ease the embargo imposed on Libya by the Security Council in 1992 for failing to hand over for trial in Britain or the United States two men wanted for the 1988 mid-air bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. On Tuesday, the Arab League said it

(Continued on page 7)

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Queen Noor visits Karak schools, tourism project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured the governorate of Karak, where she visited several Ministry of Education schools and the tourism project at the Karak Citadel, according to a press release Wednesday.

As a follow-up to their Majesties visit to Karak last June and as part of Al Iim Noor Student Relief programme, Queen Noor inspected the facilities of the schools in Ariba, Abu Traba, Al Aliyah, Al Mughayyar, and Mas'ar villages, the statement read.

Queen Noor expressed her appreciation and gratitude to everyone who contributed to Al Iim Noor Student Relief Fund, which was established last year to ensure that all students in the Kingdom are given the opportunity to complete their education. Al Iim Noor Student Relief Fund, supported by contributions from Jordanians each year on the Queen's birthday, donated laboratory equipment and will support the education of impoverished children in these schools, the statement continued.

According to the Minister of Education Munther Masri, the annual budget of the ministry cannot address all the needs of the country's schools, particularly in supplying them with laboratory equipment, library books, and fees. Therefore, Al Iim Noor Fund, in cooperation with the ministry, is helping in providing many of the required needs, the press release read.

Dr. Masri added that as a result of the Queen's visit to the Ma'an governorate schools last week, the ministry has embarked on a comprehensive maintenance of the school buildings and their facilities.

Queen Noor concluded her visit by inaugurating an exhibition of handicrafts by charitable organisations in the governorate and inspecting the Ministry of Tourism's development project for Karak. The project, which is funded by the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), includes conserving the historic sites of the city, in particular the citadel, converting the path linking the citadel with the old city centre into a stone-paved pedestrian street for tourists, and restoring an old municipality building to house a visitors centre, a handicrafts centre, and a restaurant, the statement said.

The Karak Citadel, completed in 1142, is considered to be the most impressive in the line of Crusader castles that dot the landscape from Turkey to southern Jordan. The Karak project is part of a ten-year national strategy for tourism, prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities with the assistance of the World Bank, that will support the growth of competitive, sustainable, and environmentally-sound tourism, the press release continued.

Senator Leila Sharaf, Dr. Masri, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji, Noor Al Hussein Foundation Board of Trustees Member Salwa Damen-Masri, Director of the Department of Antiquities Ghazi Bisheh, and Director of Tourism in Karak accompanied Queen Noor on her visit, the statement concluded.

Prince Ra'd calls for improved handicapped services

WADI MOUSA (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin Zeid Wednesday called for further developing and improving health, social, and special education services for children in Wadi Mousa to cope with the expected changes in the near future.

Addressing a special graduation ceremony organised by the Petra Society for the Handicapped, in cooperation with several governmental and non-governmental organisations, Prince Ra'd said the number of institutions serving the handicapped has increased from one in 1964 to 112 now.

He added that such institutions are run by thousands of people from the public and private sectors and millions of dinars are spent each year to provide this humanitarian service. However, he noted that only five per cent of the handicapped benefit from these services, mostly in major cities.

"It is sad that a large number of children do not receive proper medical and rehabilitation services," Prince Ra'd said.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Ra'd presented certificates to 24 volunteers who completed a special course on community-based rehabilitation.

Programme enables students to supplement environmental knowledge

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Globe Programme, a project of the Friends of the Environment (FOE), was established to bring students, teachers, and scientists from around the world together with the Internet for environmental learning and observation. Rana Naber, Media Committee spokesperson at FOE said.

The teachers representing the Globe schools in the Kingdom will meet on Sept. 25 for a one-day workshop, where each will present a schedule for implementing the programme, Ms. Naber said.

They will be trained to use the Internet, enter data into computers, and register data, she explained.

They will also attend a lecture on satellite and remote sensing, after which they should be qualified to implement this programme in their schools," she added.

The teachers will instruct students on taking measurements, help students understand the relevance of their observations, and explain the significance of the global visualisations, she said.

Students, guided by trained teachers, take environmental measurements identified and designed by an international group of scientists and educators, Ms. Naber explained.

They will learn how their local observations, together with those of other students and scientists worldwide, make an environmental picture of the earth, she explained.

The Internet connection for the schools was set up to allow access to a local network and five Internet sites, she clarified.

FOE organised an informational workshop in August that was attended by approximately 30 teachers from local schools, Ms. Naber added.

The FOE Globe committee visited 13 schools in various localities, including the cities of Irbid, Husun, Mafrq, Tafleh, and Aqaba, which were chosen to implement this programme, she said.

They set up computers, tested equipment, and prepared for the actual Internet connection with other schools and environmental specialists, she continued.

The Globe agreement was signed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the American embassy, and FOE in October 1996.

"The Globe programme aims for students to conduct hands-on experiments that have real scientific significance," she said.

The students will be able to send their data via the Internet and other means to a processing centre, where the data are made available to scientists around the world, contributing to efforts to better understand the earth, she clarified.

She explained that the students' data are combined with data from other sources. State-of-the-art digital images, based on these data, are relayed back to classrooms by television, computers, and other communication systems, she said.

The visualisation emphasises how each school's observations are an important part of understanding the global environment, Ms. Naber concluded.

Majority of former Parliament deputies intend to run for re-election

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than half of out-going Lower House members have expressed optimism about their chances of being re-elected in the Nov. 4 elections.

According to Jordan Times' interviews with candidates and local press reports, at least 48 of the 80 former deputies have so far officially announced bids for re-election.

If their forecasts prove true, the 13th parliament would feature a number of "old faces," notwithstanding the boycott of the Islamists, who won 17 seats in the last elections.

Statistics, however, show that voters favour "new faces": of the 64 deputies in the 11th Parliament who sought re-election in 1993, only 27 won.

In addition, the outgoing deputies will also have to consider that, due to the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system before the last elections, many tribal votes will be dispersed among rival relatives.

Former Minister of Supply Munir Sobar expressed confidence in being re-elected in the Amman Fifth District, though two of his cousins (Khalil Isma'il and Mouloud Sobar) are running against him for the Circassian seat allocated to that district.

Though admitting that the participation of his two kinsmen in the race could disperse his votes, the former MP told the Jordan Times that he was "sure to win," and added that his election campaign is already on track.

Former Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh was also very confident that he will be re-elected, although his tribe, Bani Hamida, is going to field at least five other candidates in the Madaba district.

"My campaign has already started, and everything seems to be going very well," he maintained, adding that the boycott of the elections by the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), as well as other eight opposition parties, will "make it easier" for independent candidates to win.

Describing the key points in his campaign, Mr. Shakhaneh said "the people do not want to hear of politics, they want their needs to be addressed. That is why I am concentrating on my community's everyday problems, like lack of infrastructure and mounting unemployment."

Mr. Shakhaneh is going to run as independent, as he did in 1993. "I hope voters will let me continue the job I started," he concluded.

In addition to Mr. Shakhaneh, another of

Madaba's three former deputies intends to seek re-election.

Islamist independent Abdul Majeed Aqtash, who came second in Madaba in 1993 confirmed in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times that he will compete again, but this year in the Amman Second District, while out-going Christian deputy Samih Farah said he decided not to run "to give younger people from my same tribe and close to my political views a chance to be elected."

According to Mr. Farah, there are "at least six new candidates for the Madaba Christian seat, and they are all looking to me for support."

However, he said he will not announce which one he will support "until mid-October," after registration procedures have been completed.

Though Mr. Farah declined to name the aspiring Madaba Christian deputies, local press reports have mentioned as possible candidates Nashahat Hamareh, Shafiq Zawaidah, Shouqi Karadshah, and Subeil Twal. Local political commentators have indicated Mr. Zawaidah as the favourite.

Former Minister of Water and Transport Samir Kassar, who was the Christian deputy of the Balqa district in the 1989 11th Parliament, as well as in the 1993 12th Parliament, will also

run again this year in the same district.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kassar denied he was a "tribal" candidate and maintained that "everybody who is running for the Balqa Christian seat is my competitor," adding that there are other six possible candidates for that seat.

In the Ma'an constituency, which, before this year's administrative amendments included also the Aqaba district and was allocated five seats, none of the former deputies, including former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and former Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat, intends to run again.

The outgoing Ma'an deputies cited various reasons for their withdrawal from the race: former IAF Deputy Badr Kiani said he is complying with his party's decision to boycott, while former independent Deputy Taha Hababeh said he wanted to leave the ground to "new faces."

In contrast, Mafrq appears to be so far the only electoral district in the Kingdom in which all former deputies have decided to try their luck again: Former Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughml, Abdullah Akhou Irshdeh, and Mohammed Abu Oleim have confirmed they will join the race.

Among the outgoing deputies determined to run

again in this year's elections from other governorates are: Former Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous (Amman First District); former Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb, Toujan Feisal, the only woman deputy in the 12th Parliament, and Secretary General of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party Khalil Haddadin (all in Amman Third District); former deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Secretary General of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh and former Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (both in Irbid); former Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun); Fawaz Zo'bi (Ramtha); former Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat and former Minister of Post and Communications and Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas (both in the Balqa district); NCP Secretary General and former Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali; and former Lower House Speaker Sa'ed Hayel Srour (northern bedouins).

Ministry of Interior Secretary General Hashem Sabbagh announced two weeks ago that official registration procedures for candidates will start on Oct. 10, and will last for three days, in accordance with the Elections Law.

HUDC awards tender for Aqaba housing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Wednesday awarded a local construction company a JD760,000 tender for the construction of a housing estate in Aqaba for government employees.

According to the contract, which was signed by HUDC Director Yousef Hiyasat and the company's general manager, nine buildings will comprise a total of 34 housing units, each of 125 square metres.

The government owns the units, which allows its employees working in Aqaba to rent them for nominal sum as long as they are civil servants.

According to the terms of the contract, work on the project is to be completed 18 months from commencement.

Mr. Hiyasat remarked at the signing ceremony that the HUDC project will be an extension to a similar estate built previously in Aqaba, adding that the HUDC had constructed 186 housing units in the past for employees working for the government-owned National Electric Power Company, the Vocational Training Corporation, and the Civil Defence Department.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the HUDC is now contacting the government departments whose Aqaba employees wish to make use of the new units.

Mr. Hiyasat expressed the HUDC's readiness to respond to government departments' housing needs and provide the required housing units for their employees in all parts of the country.

The HUDC continues to carry out housing projects for limited income groups at reasonable cost and will continue to cooperate with private sector firms to achieve this, he added.

Workshop on interaction between universities, industry opens

RAMTHA (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki Wednesday opened a workshop on interaction between universities and the production and services sectors.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Mulki said the accelerating changes in the last few years in the technological, economic, communication, and information fields have changed the traditional roles of universities in advanced societies.

As a result, universities have become involved in industry and production-related research activities, he said.

"Our option is to build national economy capable of competing at the national and international levels and to adjust to the local, regional, and international changes," Dr. Mulki said, adding that economic policy should be based on continuous interaction and dialogue between the government, educational, research, training, and private sectors.

He called on universities to reconsider their curricula



Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki (centre) opens a workshop dealing with the increased need for universities to cooperate with the various industry sectors due to the increase in technology (Petra photo)

with a view to introducing modern technology and specialised training to enable students to cope with the latest technological developments and meet the requirements of the national economy.

Dr. Mulki stated that local universities have focused

on teaching basic sciences without paying enough attention to the concept of technology.

Reiterating His Majesty King Hussein's directives to establish links between universities and the production sectors, Dr. Mulki said such links are the only stan-

dard against which the success of education and training can be measured.

Dr. Mulki stressed the importance of establishing close relations with various economic and production sectors and called for establishing joint projects and industrial compounds.

Kingdom's endorsement of new mine treaty wording subject to review

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new wording to a draft treaty on anti-personnel mines, formally approved at the recently-concluded Oslo Diplomatic Conference, must await further deliberations before the Kingdom endorses it.

"Jordan supports the final wording of the final draft treaty, but the government still has to study a comprehensive report compiled on the anti-personnel mine issue this week," said Ma'ruf Bakhit, vice president for Military Affairs at Mu'ta University.

Based on the outcome of these deliberations, the government will then decide whether or not to

endorse the new international humanitarian law treaty, Dr. Bakhit told the Jordan Times.

The report includes the positions of neighbouring countries on this treaty. Jordan's security requirements, and other technical matters, he explained.

Israel, Syria, and Egypt have not been party to the Ottawa process, which was initiated in 1996 by the Canadian government. This process stipulated that by December 1997 states would return to Ottawa to adopt a treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

"Jordan was present at the Oslo Diplomatic Conference as an observer and responded positively to proposed ideas on the most touching issues regarding the wording of the draft

treaty," noted head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Amman, Jack De Maio.

The U.S. proposal to exempt U.N.-commanded forces in Korea from the general prohibition on anti-personnel mines was blocked by the majority of participating states, ICRC delegate Stuart Maslene told the Jordan Times.

He noted that although "there have been a number of proposals to change the definition [of anti-personnel mines] in the existing text and two possible exceptions," the large majority of states called for a strong and clear definition and a treaty without exceptions.

In a dramatic act of protest, the U.S. "just

walked out of the morning session on Thursday and did not return," commented Mr. De Maio.

The U.S. indicated from the beginning that it preferred to pursue a landmine ban through the U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament.

"The U.S., Russia, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Israel, and a host of other nations, who account for more than half the world's population, have no intention of attending the signing ceremony in Ottawa in December," declared Louise Doswald-Beck, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation to the Conference.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Cronica del Alba" (last episode) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "Beaches" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

THURSDAY'S ACTIVITIES

* Film entitled "Isamu Naguchi" at 6:00 p.m.

* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalhoul of Syria, and Najia Mehadi at the South Hall.

* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

EXHIBITIONS

* Painting by Fatima El-Helou at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 4.

* "The Projects of the Essence, Aspects of Italian Painting in the 90s" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 20.

* Works by Khelif Mahmoud Khelif at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 2 (Tel. 5536098).

* Works by Syrian artist Dr. Fatah Moudares at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 5537598).

* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Basil" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).

* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radiocastivite" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

2 die, tens of thousands sick as S. East Asia haze crisis worsens

JAKARTA (AFP) — South East Asia Wednesday reported its first two deaths from the choking man-made haze blanketing much of the region.

The haze has spread to parts of the southern Philippines and Thailand.

More than 1,000 Malaysian firefighter volunteers arrived on Wednesday at Dumai, in the central Sumatran province of Riau, to help combat the fires.

In Riau's capital of Pekanbaru free masks were being distributed to schoolchildren and the population, the Media Indonesia daily said.

"The smoke is getting nastier by the day and I now wear a mask that I bought at the pharmacy for 1,500 rupiah to go outside although my eyes are still getting stung," a telephone operator in Jambi in Sumatra Island told AFP.

Visibility in Jambi Wednesday was reported down to 30 metres, while officials said the airport there has remained closed since Sept. 4.

Jambi Governor Abdurrahman Sayuti has

ordered kindergartens closed because of the haze while schools from primary upwards were told not to hold activities out in the open.

In West Kalimantan on Borneo Island, local authorities have declared schools closed from Wednesday to Sept. 31 at least, the Suara Karya said.

At Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan dust particles in the air have reached 700 microgrammes per cubic metre, close to three times the safety level of 260 microgrammes, the Media Indonesia daily said.

"Since September the filter for our air pollution detection equipment has had to be changed every two hours and since Sept. 22, it has to be replaced every hour because of the density of the dust," said the head of the Palangkaraya Meteorology Station, Hidayat.

In Malaysia's central state of Selangor around 10,000 people had been treated as of Saturday, most for respiratory tract infections, the Health Department Director Shukor Mohammad Noor

said. More than 5,000 people have been reported sick in Malaysia's eastern state of Sarawak on Borneo where postmen are donning masks and goggles to protect them on their rounds.

Azman Zainal Abidin, an expert in air pollution control, played down the immediate dangers in the Sarawak capital Kuching, where the air pollution index eased to 651 points early Wednesday — still at danger levels — from 800 points Tuesday.

Azman was quoted by The Star daily as saying inhaling air in Kuching was as dangerous as smoking a cigarette a day. But he added that authorities did not know if the particulate matter was cancer-causing in the long run.

Even in Malaysia's northern Penang state, reports said there was a 200 per cent increase in the number of patients seeking treatment for haze-related ailments to 62 a day since Monday. The haze has also spread to southern Thailand including the prime tourist resort of Phuket but officials said it was not yet at danger

levels.

The World Bank warned the region Wednesday to tackle slash-and-burn tactics. Farmers who fell and burn trees to cultivate land are looking for short-term gains that will provoke long-term desolation as the earth becomes unfit for agriculture, operations chief Paul Mitchell told AFP.

Indonesia's government has given 176 companies, mostly big plantation firms, until the end of the month to prove they were not deliberately starting fires.

But Indonesian timber baron Mohammad "Bob" Hasan Wednesday blamed small farmers rather than big companies, saying the blazes were the fault of "people's plantations, shifting cultivation farmers and wood thieves."

The smog has delayed the sending of food, medicine and paramedics to Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya on New Guinea island, where 251 people have been reported dead, mostly of starvation and cholera, following a drought-induced water shortage.



A young Indonesian mother is helped by her son to extinguish a blaze which struck their pepper plantation in East Kalimantan on the Indonesian side of Borneo Island. The crisis is being exacerbated by drought blamed on the El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which has seriously delayed monsoon rains (Reuter photo)

Pakistan, India remain far apart after talks

NEW YORK (R) — The prime ministers of arch-rivals India and Pakistan held talks on long-standing grievances Tuesday but did not achieve any breakthrough, officials on both sides said.

Clear evidence of the gulf between the two states came in their comments on possible U.S. mediation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that would be very helpful to the two nations, which have often been at loggerheads over the last 50 years.

Minutes later an Indian official poured cold water on the idea, saying it was out of the question.

We believe no one knows the problems of the region better than ourselves. There is no place for the kind of mediation which has been mentioned, he told reporters.

Officials said the talks between Mr. Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral were cordial, although no date was set for any future contacts.

Disputes over the territory of Kashmir — two-thirds-controlled by India but with a mainly Muslim population — have triggered two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since 1947.

Skirmishes are common across the disputed control line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Sharif and the Indian official were at pains to point out that the protracted dispute would not be solved overnight, saying they were confident progress would gradually be made.

On Monday Mr. Sharif offered to start talks on a treaty of nonaggression, but the question was not brought up at Tuesday's talks.

Any constructive idea put forward by Pakistan will be discussed with seriousness, the Indian official said.

He said the two countries should concentrate on boosting economic cooperation, since there was a feeling that the political issues would eventually be resolved.

Officials said the two leaders had agreed that measures should be taken to lessen tension across the control line, where several people have died in recent cross-border shelling. One step could be for local commanders on both sides to meet.

These incidents are most unfortunate, and we don't want to engage in any polemics on this. When such things happen, steps should be taken to prevent them occurring in future, the Indian official said.

Last week the two countries ended their third round of talks since March with an agreement to meet again but without any sign that disputes were being resolved.

Pakistan has regularly accused India of brutality toward the population of Kashmir, and Foreign Minister Shamshad Ahmad said the excesses in the territory would have to stop.

We would not want anyone to get the impression that while the dialogue continued, these atrocities were going on. It would not be conducive to taking the process of dialogue forward, he told reporters.

India accuses Pakistan of arming guerrillas fighting on the Indian side of the line, a charge Islamabad denies.

A major stumbling block in the bilateral talks has been Pakistan's insistence that a separate working group be set up on Kashmir. India fears any kind of concession on the issue would imply that the Himalayan region is a disputed territory.

Australian ministers quit over travel claims

CANBERRA (R) — Two senior Australian ministers quit Wednesday as a deepening row over travel allowance abuse allegations hit the 18-month-old conservative government of Prime Minister John Howard.

In the biggest ministerial crisis to hit the government, Mr. Howard told parliament in a special appearance he had accepted the resignations of Transport and Regional Development Minister John Sharp and Administrative Services Minister David Jull.

The shock announcement followed revelations late Tuesday that Mr. Sharp had secretly repaid almost 9,000 Australian dollars (\$6,500) of travel allowances he could not substantiate.

Mr. Jull, who oversees parliamentary expenses, had not revealed the payment to parliament, although he had detailed repayments by non-government members.

"I have accepted their resignations and I believe their resignations are appropriate," Mr. Howard said.

Mr. Howard said the ministers had to resign because the repayment was so large and should have been officially explained in detail.

Wednesday's resignations have hit the government midway through its first term.

They follow the resignation in July of Mr. Howard's small business minister, Geoff Prosser, over allegations he had breached the ministerial code of conduct.

An assistant minister and parliamentary secretary quit late last year over conflict-of-interest allegations.

"I have acted to uphold not only the reality of standards but also the perception of standards," Mr. Howard said.

"That is why what's happened has occurred," Mr. Howard, announcing an official inquiry into the matter, said he was not judging the ministers' guilt or innocence, but said he had never had any reason to doubt their honesty.

Mr. Howard said Science Minister Peter McGauran and Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Scott had also repaid travel allowance payments of smaller amounts, but they will remain in their jobs.

Australian politicians and ministers are entitled to tax-free payments of up to A\$320 a night for nights spent away from home on business.

Mr. Howard's Liberal-National Coalition came to power in a landslide victory in March 1996, partly on a platform of cleaning up government.

But despite imposing a new ethics code, his government has been beset by regular rows over ethical standards.

Three sitting or recently retired government MPs are before the courts over allegations of fraud in relation to travel allowances. So, too, is a key independent senator, until recently supported by Mr. Howard's government.

The government has also been hit by a series of other woes in recent months, including controversy over native land rights and a divisive national race row sparked by populist politician Pauline Hanson.

The government's opinion poll lead has fallen steadily over the past nine months, dropping from 12 points to about three, with some leading polls putting the government and opposition neck and neck. The next election is due by mid-1999.

Ball is in N. Korea's court on peace talks — U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and South Korea agreed Tuesday that "the ball is in North Korea's court" to restart aborted preparatory talks on four-party Korean peninsula peace negotiations, a senior U.S. official said.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and South Korean Foreign Minister Chong-Ha Yu "agreed ... that with regard to the four-party talks, the ball is in North Korea's court," the official told reporters.

"They are waiting for a signal of seriousness from the North Koreans that we have not seen. And absent that, there's not a lot we can do to get this thing going again," he said.

There was speculation that Pyongyang was stalling on the peace talks until it saw who took power in South Korean elections in December, he added.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said that Seoul was

drawing nearer to Washington in its understanding of how serious the famine is in North Korea, the world's most headline remaining socialist system.

The two foreign ministers had an "extensive discussion of the nature of the food crisis and how deep it was," the official said.

They "talked about different ways to focus on the problem of children in North Korea who have severe malnutrition. They talked about working closely with the Japanese on this question," he said.

On the issue of food aid for North Korea, the United States, which has taken lead in pressing forward on behalf of such donations, and South Korea are "coming closer and closer together," the official said.

He spoke after a second round of preparatory talks, aimed at establishing an agenda for peace talks, ended in failure.

Washington blamed the

Communist Pyongyang government for the failure of the talks between the United States, China, South and North Korea to arrange a conference in Geneva on a permanent peace agreement for the divided Korean peninsula.

U.S. officials said famine-stricken North Korea had made "unacceptable" demands to link food aid to the four-party talks and to include U.S. troop withdrawals from South Korea and a bilateral peace treaty with Washington as agenda items.

"They have put forward agenda items that we regard as non-serious," one official said concerning last week's breakdown of four-party talks laying the ground for full-scale peace talks with the United States, Germany, France and Britain.

The United States says that while it is ready to discuss the future of its 37,000 troops in South Korea, to include their withdrawal as

an agenda item would be to cede in advance the point that they should leave.

It also says that while it has already sent food aid to North Korea and is ready to consider more, it will not be forced to buy North Korean attendance at the peace talks with pledges of aid.

North Korea said Sunday that the United States should provide food aid as a sign of goodwill, that a U.S. troop pullout from South Korea had always been on the table and that the resumption of the talks depended on the United States.

North Korea, facing a severe food shortage, also said that the United States was trying to use food aid as a weapon.

The 1950-1953 Korean war, in which the United States supported the capitalist south and China backed the Communist North, ended with an armistice that stopped the fighting but technically not the war.

Catherine II. Two humanitarian organizations, meanwhile, hope that Mr. Chirac will convince Mr. Yeltsin to step up efforts to free five French aid workers kidnapped in the Russian Caucasus.

Four of them, from the Lyon-based relief organization Equilibre, disappeared in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, on Aug. 2. The fifth, a worker for Medecins Sans Frontieres, was seized on July 1 in Nazran, capital of neighbouring Ingushetia.

Heavy arms fire again rocks Brazzaville

KINSHASA (AFP) — Rival factions in the Congolese capital Brazzaville hammered each other with heavy weapons' fire overnight, reports from Kinshasa across the Congo river said Wednesday.

The firing stopped in the early morning, an AFP reporter in Kinshasa said.

Bitter fighting between troops loyal to President Pascal Lissouba and the militia of his arch-rival, Denis Sassou Nguesso, has continued despite increasingly strident ceasefire calls from neighbouring states.

Official figures put the number killed since clashes

broke out in early June at 4,000, but international organisations have put the toll at almost twice that.

Several hundred thousand people have fled the capital for the country, or to the neighbouring states, including the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On Wednesday, as the guns which have reduced much of Brazzaville to rubble fell into temporary silence, radio stations controlled by both sides resumed the propaganda battle.

Radio Liberte, controlled by Sassou Nguesso, accused Mr. Lissouba and

his Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas of genocide. Supporters of Sassou Nguesso, a former president, have refused to recognise Mr. Kolelas, nor the government he formed last week, because he was appointed by Mr. Lissouba, whose presidential mandate expired on August 31.

Presidential elections planned for July were postponed indefinitely because of the fighting.

The Lissouba-controlled Radio Congo accused Sassou Nguesso of being a rebel.

Former S. African general admits executing anti-apartheid activists

PORT ELIZABETH (AFP) — Retired police general, Nic Van Rensburg admitted before South Africa's Truth Commission Wednesday that he and a colleague executed two anti-apartheid activists in 1982.

Van Rensburg said student leaders Siphiwo Msimkulu and Topsy Madaka were abducted from outside a hotel in this south coast city in April 1982, and taken to a disused police station where they were interrogated and then given coffee spiked with sleeping tablets.

When they fell asleep Van Rensburg and his colleague, Colonel Gideon Nieuwoudt, took them outside and executed them with shots to the head.

Van Rensburg said he killed Msimkulu with a single shot behind an ear.

The bodies were placed on a pile of firewood, doused with diesel and then burned for six hours. The remains were taken up by Nieuwoudt, who then dumped them in the nearby Fish River.

As Van Rensburg was giving his testimony, Msimkulu's teenage son, Sikhumbuzo, began wailing and collapsed, and had to be carried from the hall.

His sister Aleuta also broke down and was comforted by Truth and Reconciliation Commission officials.

Van Rensburg and Nieuwoudt are among four former security police officers applying for amnesty from the truth commission for the murders of Msimkulu and Madaka.

The truth commission, which is probing human rights abuses during the apartheid era, is obliged to grant amnesty to applicants provided they can prove a political motive and make full confession.

Nieuwoudt, who is serving a 20-year jail term, is also applying for amnesty for eight other killings, including the 1977 death in police detention of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko.

New S. African political party fights for disenchanted voters

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — They come from different worlds — one is the son of a conservative Afrikaner farmer who rose to prominence in the apartheid regime, the other a former black militant in South Africa's liberation struggle.

But on Saturday, Roelf Meyer and Bantu Holomisa, respectively defectors from the conservative National Party (NP) and President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC), will launch a new multi-racial party aimed at winning power.

Faced with an increasingly skeptical electorate, the two pariahs of the country's largest political parties are striving to win votes of the disenchanted and undecided and regenerate a struggling opposition.

"Today, there is no balance on the political scene. We are still being drawn down by the old political order, by parties either tainted by apartheid or joined by the singular goal of fighting it," the party said in a statement last week.

The new party will unveil

its name, colours and aims Saturday in Johannesburg. At their first joint conference, the two leaders answered policy questions in vague outline, saying they would listen to the South African people before deciding upon detailed objectives.

Nevertheless, several themes have emerged — the fight against crime and corruption, job creation, the abolishment of political "affirmative action" policies designed to bring the black majority into the white-dominated economy, and the end of "hegemony."

Since South Africa's historic all-race elections in 1994, the popularity of the ANC has dropped about 10 per cent, the NP also 14 per cent, there is about 20 per cent floating. We have to come up with a good product and a good implemented strategy on politics to capture these people who want no more rhetoric," the party statement said.

Since joining forces, the two men have tried to capitalise on their differences; Mr. Holomisa was an extreme-

leftist and one of the most popular leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle while Mr. Meyer was the centre-right former secretary general of the NP who maintained an image as the boy-next-door into his 50s.

"Roelf and I are very different and we must rally around that challenge and build a winning nation around that," Mr. Holomisa told AFP.

Among their few common points is the fact that both were ousted from their former political families — Mr. Holomisa for accusing an ANC government minister of corruption and criticising the party's fund-raising, while Mr. Meyer proposed transforming the party which invented apartheid into a popular black-based movement.

Mr. Holomisa, 42, who enjoys the title "general" from his military days, is the son of a traditional Xhosa chief who in 1988 captured power in the apartheid semi-independent tribal homeland of Transkei, which subsequently became a base for then-outlawed ANC fighters.



Soldiers move a military truck on a highway in Mexico's Baja California state, with soldiers moving along the road.

Hurricane surges

Minimum winds up to 110 mph and gusts to 130 mph were reported in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm is expected to hit the Gulf Coast of Mexico on Friday, he said. As the hurricane moved off the coast, it struck the state of Veracruz, about 100 miles from the town of Minatitlan. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was moving slowly westward, but it was not clear if it would hit the coast.

Thousands of Cambodians

Agencies — Fresh claims that thousands of refugees fled Cambodia last Wednesday. The number that crossed into Thailand was not known, but it was said to be in the thousands.

The 3,500 who were at the border since the Cambodian crisis began in August, when the Khmer Rouge began to flee the country.

The situation, the area around the border, was tense. The Cambodian government said it was not sure if the refugees were fleeing the Khmer Rouge or the Thai government.

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Chirac to make 3-day state visit to Russia

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac begins a three-day state visit to Russia Thursday, bearing with his spokeswoman Catherine Colonna called "a message of friendship, perseverance, determination and confidence in the future."

Ms. Colonna said the main themes of the visit were cooperation in pursuing reforms in Russia and the country's full integration in the international community.

While political relations between the two countries are considered excellent, boosted by a firm friendship between Mr. Chirac

and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, trade levels are relatively low.

France is only ninth in the table of exporters to Russia, while its imports of oil and natural gas resulted in a deficit of some 10 billion francs (\$2 billion) last year.

In a bid to involve France in major industrial projects, Mr. Chirac will be accompanied by a score of businessmen from various sectors, along with Education Minister Claude Allegre, European Affairs Minister Pierre Moscovici and Foreign Trade Minister Jacques Dondoux.

He will have behind him an agreement signed Monday to reschedule 15 billion francs in debt owed to France by the former Soviet Union.

During his visit, taking him from Moscow to Saint Petersburg, Mr. Chirac will have talks with Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, open a new French school in the Russian capital, and make a keynote speech at the city's institute for international relations.

He will make another speech to the student body of the university of Saint Petersburg and tour the Dubrowski Library, founded by the Tsarina

Catherine II.

Two humanitarian organizations, meanwhile, hope that Mr. Chirac will convince Mr. Yeltsin to step up efforts to free five French aid workers kidnapped in the Russian Caucasus.

Four of them, from the Lyon-based relief organization Equilibre, disappeared in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, on Aug. 2. The fifth, a worker for Medecins Sans Frontieres, was seized on July 1 in Nazran, capital of neighbouring Ingushetia.



Mexican soldiers move a military truck stuck in a flood caused by rains from Hurricane Nora on the Los Cabos-La Paz Highway in Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Torrential rains from Hurricane Nora stranded hundreds of Mexicans on flooded highways in southern Baja California (Reuter photo)

Hurricane surges north, aims at Mexican coast

CABO SAN LUCAS (R) — Torrential rains from Hurricane Nora stranded hundreds of Mexicans on flooded highways in southern Baja California Tuesday as the hurricane surged toward the peninsula.

Fierce squalls blew through this resort town and waves up to 3.5 metres high kept frightened tourists huddled in their hotels on the exposed tip of the Baja California Peninsula.

But weather forecasters said Nora looked most likely to hit ripe farmland in the central peninsula, near Puerto Penasco and Ensenada.

"Puerto Penasco might get minimum hurricane force winds up there Thursday night and into Friday," hurricane specialist, Rick Boyer, of Independent Weather Services Corp, told Reuters.

"Nora is absolutely expected to hit land and move to Arizona and Utah by Friday," he added.

As the hurricane's fallout thrashed the coastline, Nora lurked off the coast late Tuesday at about 475 kilometres southwest of the resort town Cabo San Lucas.

The U.S. National Hurricane Centre's Richard Pasch said Nora began to veer more northward Tuesday, swerving slowly in toward Mexico's Pacific Coast.

"The hurricane could touch ground Wednesday or Thursday and impact northern Baja California or possibly the state of California," Mexican weather service forecaster Dario Rodriguez told Reuters.

Nora's impact could be tempered by cooler waters, which have slowed the hurricane's wind speeds from about 250 kilometres per hour to a current about 144 kilometres per hour. Forecasters said a calmer Nora could hit the coast after being downgraded to tropical storm.

The El Nino phenomenon, which has warmed waters off Peru and Ecuador and upset global weather patterns, has spurred more frequent and ferocious hurricanes and tropical storms on the Pacific Coast. Such storms feed off of the warmer waters.

According to Mexican state news agency Notimex, frail fishing villages as far afield as the northwest mainland states of Sonora and Sinaloa were bracing for the onslaught in case Nora leapt-frogged Baja and continued West.

Baja California State Public Security Director Jose Zavala told Reuters most of the state was on alert for Nora, and that regional flooding had ruined roads and humble dwellings.

Thousands of Cambodians displaced by clashes

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Fresh clashes between Cambodian government troops and renegade Khmer Rouge guerrillas have driven thousands of refugees to the border with Thailand, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

"We believe that the number that crossed into Thailand is close to 5,000," said Peter Van Der Vaart, chief of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Phnom Penh.

"That's in addition to the 3,500 who were already there," he added.

Thai border officials said only 700 Cambodians had crossed the remote western frontier since renewed fighting erupted in the area Saturday.

However, they said between 4,000 and 5,000 civilians had gathered on the Cambodian side of the border ready to cross into Thailand.

"We're trying to clarify the situation, the area is not accessible," Mr. Van Der Vaart said.

The flood of refugees began in August, when intermittent clashes began in the remote western district of Samlaut between government troops and a renegade faction of the Khmer Rouge.

Fighting between the guerrillas and troops loyal to second Prime Minister Hun Sen erupted again last weekend, displacing the latest group of 5,000, Mr. Van Der Vaart said.

Khmer Rouge forces in western Cambodia broke with the group's hardline leadership and defected to the government last year but clashes broke out in August between government troops and a faction of the defectors.

Some government commanders say the faction is allied with Prince Norodom Ranariddh who was ousted by Mr. Hun Sen as first prime minister in two days of violent clashes in early July.

Analysts say Mr. Hun Sen launched his de facto coup after hearing reports that Prince Ranariddh was on the verge of sealing an alliance with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Hun Sen himself defected from the Khmer Rouge in 1977 and led a Hanoi-backed government after Vietnam drove the brutal Maoist regime from power in 1979.

The two premiers formed an uneasy coalition government after U.N.-sponsored elections in 1993 but their relationship rapidly deteriorated, culminating in Mr. Hun Sen's bloody seizure of power.

More than 20,000 Cambodians have fled into Thailand's Surin province since Prince Ranariddh's ouster to escape fighting between his troops and Hun Sen loyalists around the northwest Cambodian border town of O'smach.

However, some officials said the Samlaut clashes were not political but arose from competition in the lucrative logging trade in the heavily-forested area.

Meanwhile, Cambodia celebrated the fourth anniversary of its constitution and the reascension of King Norodom Sihanouk to the throne Wednesday but a combination of economic, political and military concerns threatened to spoil the party.

While the Cambodian people enjoyed a holiday, the Phnom Penh government — beset by a growing internal armed resistance — struggled to deal with an increasing number of setbacks on the international front.

"The last several days — beginning with the U.N. — have not been good ones," said a local political analyst, referring to a United Nations decision on Friday to keep Cambodia's seat at the 52nd General Assembly session vacant.

The decision, which has been decried by the government as an "insult," came as the U.S. intensified efforts to withhold recognition and aid following the violent ouster of Prince Ranariddh in July.

July's fighting which ousted Prince Ranariddh has dealt the country's service industry a severe blow with more than 20,000 jobs estimated to have been lost as tourists stay away.

In addition, economic growth, once expected to be six per cent, has been revised drastically downwards to one per cent or less.

In an effort to restore Cambodia's tattered image and gain the international recognition they are so eager to have, newly named First Prime Minister Ung Huot and Mr. Hun Sen, were going ahead with plans to lobby against the U.N. decision in New York.

In a separate development, Exiled Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy said Wednesday he would return home next month despite the risk he could be "arrested or killed" by the government of Mr. Hun Sen.

He said he would go to Phnom Penh on October 6, for the first time since Mr. Hun Sen seized sole power there after bloody factional fighting in July, to see supporters and establish the extent of the regime's "intimidation of the people." "I have to go to see the situation for myself although obviously it carries a very real risk," he told AFP in a telephone interview from Washington.

In Phnom Penh a senior official said Mr. Rainsy was welcome to return and the government would give him protection if he "did not accuse us of trying to spy on him."

U.S.: Much to do in Bosnia but no SFOR decision

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday the international community had far from finished its task in Bosnia but Washington had not decided what role it should play after the NATO-led mission to stabilise the region ends in June next year.

Sandy Berger, U.S. President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, also said in a speech that the United States had an abiding interest in stability in Bosnia and had already made much progress in bringing it about.

The United States has about 8,000 troops in the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) set up to maintain order in Bosnia after the parties to the long conflict signed peace accords under U.S. auspices in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995.

"There is mounting evidence that...the choices made at Dayton are producing real positive change in Bosnia. Dayton has kept the guns silent and Bosnia intact," Mr. Berger told students at Georgetown University.

"The work of rebuilding, uneven as it is, is moving forward... substantial majorities of Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and Serbs believe the conditions are being created for a lasting peace," he added.

But on the negative side, not enough displaced Bosnians have been able to go home, a struggle for power rages on in the Bosnian Serb entity and prominent indicted war criminals such as Radovan Karadzic remain at large, he said.

"Less than two years after Dayton, and after so much devastation, the job is far from done. We are not as far along as we would like to be... Progress is painfully slow on many fronts," added Mr. Berger.

On the crucial question of what the United States will do with its force when the SFOR mandate expires, the national security adviser was non-committal.

Americans are divided on the subject. A humanitarian lobby favours an extension of the mandate to avert a return to ethnic violence. Others worry that the United States might end up caught in a bitter conflict peripheral to U.S. interests.

Mr. Berger said: "In June 1998, SFOR's mission will end, as the president has said. But the international community's engagement will continue. Whether an international security presence is part of that engagement and what role the United States might play remains to be decided."

"In part, that decision depends on where things stand as we approach the time of SFOR's departure. But one thing is clear... the United States has an important interest in the establishment of a lasting peace in Bosnia," he added.

Mr. Berger echoed previous U.S. assessments that the tide was turning inside the Bosnian Serb area against the hardliners loyal to war leader Karadzic and based in the town of Pale.

The United States has backed elected Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, helping her police force take over police stations and trying to stop hostile broadcasting by radio stations controlled by the hardliners.

U.S., Japan approve new security arrangements

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Japan announced Tuesday they had approved the first changes in their regional security cooperation arrangements in nearly 20 years.

"We have approved new guidelines for U.S.-Japan defence cooperation," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said after a meeting with Japan's foreign and defence ministers and U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen.

"By replacing 1978 guidelines that focused largely on the cold war era threats, we have reinvigorated our partnership to meet the challenges of this new era," she said.

New Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi said he was "confident that the new guidelines indeed provide a substantive foundation for U.S.-Japan defence cooperation under normal circumstances as well as in contingencies."

The officials are in New York for the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Pentagon has said that under the new guidelines, Japan agreed in principle to give key military support to U.S. forces in an Asia crisis, including access to bases, while maintaining its ban on the use of offensive military might.

The new arrangements would pave the way for emergency U.S. use of more Japanese bases as well as Japanese mine sweeping of sea lanes and joint evacuation of civilians in a war or other crisis, defence officials said.

Mr. Cohen told reporters that previously there were no guidelines on how to coordinate on peacekeeping or on search and rescue operations, with which cold war militaries seldom were involved.

"These new guidelines are going to facilitate greater cooperation in such areas as logistical support in search and rescue operations following disasters," he said.

Also, "they outline how our governments are going to work together if Japan faces a threatened or actual attack," he added.

A copy of the guidelines released by the Pentagon states: "All actions taken by Japan will be consistent with its laws and regulations then in effect."

It also specifies that "in order to meet its commitments, the United States will maintain its nuclear deterrent capability, its forward deployed forces in the Asia-Pacific region and other forces capable of reinforcing those forward deployed forces."

The two sides stressed that while the new guidelines solidified their "robust and dynamic (military) alliance," the agreement should not be interpreted as threatening any country, such as China which has watched warily as Washington and Tokyo have intensified their security ties.

In fact, Ms. Albright and Mr. Cohen insisted the agreement would contribute to the stability and safety of the entire Asia Pacific region.

"The new guidelines are not addressed at any individual nation, at any third nation," Mr. Cohen said.

He said that in an effort to assuage Chinese concerns, the United States and Japan have kept Beijing closely apprised of their discussions and have sought to make the process as transparent as possible.

Mr. Obuchi said that he would seek in meetings with his Chinese and Korean counterparts in New York to reassure neighbouring countries further.

U.S. officials have said the agreement would not specifically name available ports or airfields affected.

The guidelines would initially provide a generic but firm basis for political leaders in Tokyo and Washington to make decisions on cooperation based on specific military contingency plans to be drawn up later, they said.

China, Korea and other countries in Eastern Asia are wary of any offensive use of Japan's large and high-tech self-defence force in the region, despite tight restrictions in Japan's constitution against such deployment.

The new guidelines are the culmination of nearly two years of negotiations and discussion under which Japan and the United States will cooperate more fully to guarantee peace and stability in the region.

Albright 'encouraged' by China talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she was "encouraged" by talks Tuesday with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, particularly on nuclear issues, a senior U.S. official said.

"Our impression is that China took our concerns seriously," the official said privately.

"The Chinese are trying to work with us to make the summit as successful as possible," the official said, referring to President Jiang Zemin's planned visit to Washington in October.

The official also announced that a delegation of U.S. experts would be travelling to Beijing to discuss the trip, saying that the number of days to the summit "is in the mid-thirties."

The official declined to give the date of the delegation's visit or say who would be on it but it would be expected to include Robert Einhorn, the deputy assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation.

The two diplomats "both agreed that substantial progress has been made" on the issue, the official said.

Turning to human rights, another point of disagreement between Washington and Beijing and a potential obstacle to the October summit, Ms. Albright asked Mr. Qian Qichen if two celebrated dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, could be released for medical reasons, the official said.

The Chinese diplomat acknowledged that it was possible under Chinese law but promised nothing.

Chinese Justice Minister Xiao Yang had accused the two dissidents on Tuesday of faking illness to gain their freedom.

The Chinese official also suggested establishing "a direct modern communication link" between Presidents Bill Clinton and President Jiang Zemin. The technical details of a "red telephone" have not yet been defined.

Earlier, Ms. Albright said that the United States had asked China to make a major increase in its U.N. contribution to make up for a projected decline in U.S. payments.

"We have urged China to increase its rate to a level more commensurate to its position as a political and economic power of global standing," she said before talks with Mr. Qian Qichen on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

South Korean president quits as ruling party head

SEOUL (AFP) — President Kim Young-Sam quit Wednesday as the head of South Korea's ruling party amid growing factional feuds sparked by the impending presidential election in December.

Mr. Kim submitted his resignation as New Korea Party (NKP) president through an aide, to give a freer hand to NKP presidential candidate Lee Hoi-Chang who has been dogged by poor public opinion ratings.

Mr. Lee, a former premier and court judge, will succeed Mr. Kim as party president at the end of this month despite serious in-house disputes over the chairmanship, the party's number two post.

The new chairman will be selected at a party convention on Sept 30.

Aides said Mr. Lee favoured Lee Hang-Dong, a conservative faction leader. But rival faction leaders have threatened to boycott the convention, eroding Mr. Lee's desperate bid to restore party unity.

Mr. Kim asked that the ruling party unite in their support for Mr. Lee, the aide said.

Party divisions have intensified since popular former province governor Rhee In-Je split from the NKP in early September to run in the December election as an independent.

The move threw the ruling party's presidential race further into disarray, with Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang dogged by allegations that his sons avoided compulsory military service.

In public opinion polls the governor has outranked Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang but is far behind veteran opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung of the National Congress for New Politics.

Six candidates are running for the presidency. The three others are conservative opposition leader Kim Jong-Pil, former Seoul Mayor Cho Soon and union leader Kwon Yong-Kil.

Europeans, Japan say it is time for U.S. to pay up

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japan and European allies of the United States made it clear Tuesday that they paid their U.N. debts on time and Washington should do the same before it asked for a reduction in its dues.

The two diplomats "both agreed that substantial progress has been made" on the issue, the official said.

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one actually pays their assessment under it," British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told a news conference.

"Efficient does not spell cheap," he said in reference to reforms U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wants to institute to streamline the world organisation.

"We pay on time. We pay in full. We are at a disadvantage if others countries have not," he said, adding that the U.S. administration had worked hard to achieve a solution to problems it faces in Congress.

The 15 members of the European Community collectively pay about 35 per cent of U.N. costs, a point noted by Foreign Minister Jacques Poer of Luxembourg, the current EU president.

He told the assembly that EU nations "have always honoured their financial obligations promptly, fully and unconditionally."

Reform of the United Nations, including its ongoing financial crisis and an expansion of the Security Council are key issues in the 52nd General Assembly, the most inward looking session to date.

100th Ariane rocket launches satellite

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Western Europe's 100th Ariane rocket lifted an Intelsat communications satellite into orbit Tuesday after a textbook launch from Equatorial French Guiana.

The Ariane 421 rocket equipped with two liquid strap-on boosters lifted off at 8.58 p.m. local time from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre in Kourou, French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

The rocket rose into a clear equatorial night sky and was visible from the ground for over five minutes.

Twenty minutes later, space officials said the Intelsat 803 satellite separated from the Ariane rocket.

The Washington-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation said Intelsat 803 is the third of a run of six satellites with more capacity than the previous Intelsat-7 family. The satellite will service the Atlantic region.

Intelsat, with 141 member nations, owns and operates 26 satellites and remains the world's largest operator of international satellites.

Society on the Move

One general decorated, others take up positions ahead of elections

During the first visit to Jordan of Lt. General Georg L. Meiring, chief of the South African National Defence Force, His Majesty King Hussein bestowed upon Gen. Meiring the Order of Merit (First Class) last Sunday. The general, who was the guest of his Jordanian counterpart, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, is on an official visit to the Middle East. The other countries on his tour, following his stay in the Kingdom which ended Wednesday, include Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Jawad Anani, and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki. The Higher Council will supervise the performance of the Executive Council, which is chaired by the JESORS director general, the secretaries general of the ministries of Finance, Industry, Trade and Supply, Social Development, Public Works and Housing, and Agriculture, a Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor, a principal from the financial department of the Armed Forces, five JESORS members and two representatives from the private sector.

on "Contemporary Islam and Arab Socialism." He has been director of the German cultural centres in Alexandria, Lima, Casablanca, Tripoli, Algiers and Amman (72-74). Dr. Ule is the recipient of several medals from his own and host countries, including Jordan's Isiklal Medal of the First Order. He will be introduced to several associates-to-be at a reception on Sept. 28 hosted by the head of the press and cultural department of the German embassy, Ingrid Liedgens.

stretching the globe. Last week Chilean Ambassador Jorge Iglesias and his wife Amalia hosted a reception to mark the 187th anniversary of Chile's independence. On Sept. 29 Swiss Ambassador Gian Federico Pedotti and his wife Maria will mark confederation day (actually celebrated Aug. 1, but the Pedottis were on summer holiday) with a reception at their Jabal Amman residence. The 48th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China will be celebrated by Ambassador Liu Bao Lai and his wife Yuan Shao Yun at the embassy premises on Sept. 30. On Oct. 2, Chargé d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Korea Ki Chull Oh and his wife will introduce their new Ambassador and Mrs. Kyun Woo Lee at their home and mark their country's national day event. German Ambassador Peter Mende and his wife Margret will welcome guests at the InterContinental Hotel on the occasion of their country's national day next Saturday. Egypt's military attaché Mohammad Jami'e and his wife will celebrate the republic's army day at the InterContinental Hotel on Oct. 6. And finally, the Republic of China (Taiwan), represented in Jordan by Francis T. N. Chang and his wife at the commercial office of Taiwan, will also host a reception at the InterContinental to mark their national day.

AN ACADEMIC APPROACH? With the planned boycott of the Nov. 4 elections by the opposition, three Islamic Action Front deputies sought to obtain (in one case retain) teaching appointments at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia (Islamic studies). Other than Bassam Emoush (Zarqa), who had already been teaching and thus was reappointed, reports are that former deputies Homam Said (Amman 5th District) and Mohammad Haj (Zarqa) were just testing the waters. The faculty does not believe that these two deputies actually intended to take full time teaching positions as that would mean that they would lose entitlement to their pensions from the Parliament. Deputy Said, in fact, teaches one-course at the university, but on a part-time basis. Decisions, therefore, may be postponed until the official registration of candidates.

TWO DOWN: One professional Gen. Turk will be in contact with while serving the interests of the JESORS membership is attorney Hanna Neddeh. Mr. Neddeh was fired last week by several retired ministry secretaries general for winning two cases on their behalf concerning the rate of cost of living allowances. The first case was settled in 1996 and the other earlier this year. The gathering was held as an expression of thanks to the mince-no-words lawyer.

NEW TERRITORY:

The Spanish Cultural Centre, Instituto Cervantes, has finally got a new director after more than one year of deliberating and tapping the expertise of Javier Ruiz, the institute's director in Damascus. She is Lola Infante, a journalist and teacher of Arabic language and history of the Arab World at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Born in Logroño, Spain in 1946, Ms. Infante has worked for the Spanish daily *Diario* as chief international correspondent and analyst in Paris.



Lola Infante

FAREWELLS & INTRODUCTIONS: China makes the news again, here in Amman that is, with the departure of Senior Colonel Gao Chengqun at the end of his nearly four-year tour of duty as military attaché of the People's Republic of China. Col. Gao, 52, who also goes by his adopted Arab name "Nabil Gumma'ah" will return to Beijing soon to spend a few months at the Department of Defence. He then expects to be posted to an embassy somewhere again in the Arab World. Col. "Gumma'ah" was educated in Egypt and was posted several times to his country's embassy in Cairo from 1970 to 1993. Col. Gao will be succeeded by Col. Dai Shacan, who arrived in Amman shortly after the convening in China of the 15th Communist Party congress. Col. Dai, 43, first served abroad, like his predecessor, in Egypt. Before being assigned to Jordan, he was deputy department head at the Ministry of Defence. Col. Dai's wife, Wang Li Jun, will not be accompanying him here as her career with China Radio International keeps her in Beijing. Ms. Wang is deputy director of China Radio's Arabic Department. The couple, both fluent in Arabic, have a daughter. A reception to bid farewell to Col. Gao and introduce his successor was hosted at the Chinese Embassy last night.

BACK IN SERVICE: The names of several retired Armed Forces officers were circulating last week. Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid, it was reported, has recommended the appointment of two retired officers as governors and at the same time, considered the retirement of Aqaba Governor Salem Turk. The two persons proposed as Ministry of Interior governors are Brigadier Nashai Majali, once military attaché in Washington and before that director of planning for the Jordan Armed Forces, and Imran Khamash, a former brigade commander and once an aide-de-camp to His Majesty King Hussein. As for Gen. Turk, it is expected that he will take over the reins of the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen/women, which has been headed by Hani Majali for several years. Gen. Turk, insiders say, will be more at ease at JESORS than in the world of government bureaucracy. Last Sunday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, presided over a meeting to form an executive council that will oversee the work of JESORS and draw a strategy to address the social and economic concerns of the organisation's members. Dr. Majali, who is chairman of JESORS, announced that the JESORS law had been temporarily amended thus creating a higher council under the prime minister's chairmanship to include the chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, the directors of the General Intelligence Department, the Public Security Department and the Civil Defence Department, as well as HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council, Deputy Prime Minister

HOUSE WARMING: For nearly 20 years now Japan's ambassadors to Jordan have maintained residence in a house close to their embassy near Fourth Circle. But last night Ambassador Takayuki Kimura and his wife welcomed associates and friends to their new residence in Abdoun. With relations expanding, the Japanese Foreign Ministry agreed that more space was required for its envoy to entertain. The embassy was made what it calls a "reasonable" rental offer for its new living quarters and took it, opting for Abdoun where most other embassies and diplomatic residences are relocating. There are already firm plans to build a new embassy on land the Japanese government purchased near the Institute of Diplomacy on the Sixth Circle. Construction is expected to start at the end of next March and be completed by the year 2000. Japan's embassy in Jordan, which currently has a staff of nearly 40 (diplomats, administrators and local staff), is considered perhaps its third largest mission after those in the U.S. and Great Britain. The Kimuras have a daughter in high school and a son in middle school, both studying in Amman.

CONGRATULATIONS: Late September into early October brings national day celebrations from countries

A SPECIAL RUN: Andy Mansfield of the British Army Parachute Regiment, supported by the Amman Hash House Harriers, will run on Friday, Sept. 26 from the Dead Sea to the 7th Circle for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Mansfield will start off from the Dead Sea at 5:30 a.m. and is expected to arrive at the 7th Circle at around 10:30 a.m. This is the first time that this run has been made uphill, as far as we can tell.

DOWNTOWN CONCERT: On the occasion of International Tourism Day, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Bilalji is inviting guests to a music recital by the National Music Conservatory Noor Al Hussein Foundation on Friday evening at the Odium near the Roman Amphitheatre. Indications are that the 8:00 p.m. concert is by invitation only.

TRADITION AS ART: If quilt-making is your fancy, you will be glad to hear that the American Centre is hosting a visit to Jordan of American quilt and fibre artist Virginia Harris from September 26 to October 1. Ms. Harris, who is also a writer and photographer, will open her quilt exhibition "Piecing it Together" at the American Centre of the U.S. embassy on Tuesday, to be followed by a lecture on the art of quilt-making. On Sept. 28, at 10:00 a.m., she will conduct a workshop on "Designing Quilt Blocks from Origami." For more information call ext. 2579 at the U.S. embassy.

Jennifer Hamarneh

American voices for justice

Seeing The Light: Personal Encounters With The Middle East And Islam
edited by Richard H. Curtis and Janet McMahon
Washington, D.C.: American Educational Trust, 1997, 280 pages, \$18.99

SEEING THE Light, in the sense of discovering the truth, is a phrase often used in a religious context. It is not by chance that it was chosen as the title of this collection of 74 essays which have previously been printed in the monthly magazine, The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Most of the essays concern personal experiences in the Holy Land — the site of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, though there are also episodes in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria.

most of the writers are Americans, their "seeing the light" involved breaking through the thick fog of pro-Israeli bias which permeates the U.S. media and education system. What they all discovered was the justice of Arab claims.

Some of the writers saw the light suddenly, simply by meeting Arabs face-to-face and hearing their side of the story. Others were jolted upon discovering how prevalent are racism and violence in Israeli society. To give one example: In 1980, Alison Glick lived with a "typical" Israeli family while on a foreign exchange programme. The mother of the family, who worked in the Haifa industrial sector, often complained that she felt hot and dirty after her work, but wouldn't use the showers there, "because the Arabs use them" (p. 81). Alison also heard the neighbours jubilating when four Arabs were killed in a car accident. Later, living in the occupied territories during the intifada, she referred back to her experience among Israelis when pondering how anyone could shoot children, or throw tear gas in a maternity ward.

Some of the contributors saw the light slowly as part of a process of learning about the history of the Middle East, and seeing how the facts were often hidden or distorted. Some, like former congressman Paul Findley, were hounded by the Zionist lobby when they tried to argue for a more objective U.S. policy. Journalist Jerry Levin, who was held hostage in Lebanon for 11 months, returned to the U.S. to find that neither the State Department nor mainstream media welcomed his story, because he had the insight to see that his being taken hostage was a byproduct of misguided U.S. policy.

For many, the reality of the refugee camps was what opened their eyes. Dr. Clyde Farris writes of his impressions when he arrived in Amman in 1955, as the eight-year-old son of an agricultural adviser with the AID programme in Jordan: "Whatever the roots of my pro-Israel prejudices, they were soon to be challenged by the facts that could not be hidden by a smooth Israeli public relations machine. The Palestinian refugee camps (the ugly fruits of Israel's 'war of independence') littered Jordan in

BOOK REVIEW

terrible squalor" (pp. 41-2). Jordan was also the gateway for another American doctor: John T. Dnelge, M.D., who pays tribute to Dr. Hani Jumean (whom he had earlier met during medical training in the U.S.) and his wife, for helping him to understand Middle East realities. From Jordan, he went to the West Bank and saw the "unhealthy occupation": "As a physician who deals with statistics which represent individual human beings, I am frightened by the matter-of-fact attitude in America to the steadily rising toll of dead and wounded in the Israeli-occupied territories" (p. 192). Though written during the intifada, today's events unfortunately serve to confirm this view.

Most of the contributors to this volume are now working in various fields to promote a just peace in the Middle East, and a change in U.S. policy. Most are aware that this is a long, uphill battle.

By Sally Bland

Weigert scores points, but misses the point

My life with the Palestinians
Gideon Weigert
Published by "The Jerusalem Times" Palestinian weekly, P.O. Box 20185, Jerusalem, 91200

"MY LIFE with the Palestinians" is the author's self-professed attempt to not only quench "a worldwide thirst for knowledge of the positive side of life with the Palestinians..." but also to help his fellow Israeli citizens "cross the bridge from generations of hatred and bloodshed to peaceful coexistence with Palestinians." However, at least on the latter count, he leaves much to be desired.

The book is a rather scattered collection of the author's personal experiences with the Palestinian people. These span nearly half a century of close friendships with Arab families of Jerusalem — some of whom "adopted" him during his studies — as well as bedouins of the Negev, and the Druze of Galilee. Some of these make warm and interesting reading, while others, like the chapter on "martyrs" make one cringe by an exclusive focus on intra-Palestinian violence and an absolute lack of any admission of Israeli atrocities that have been perpetrated relentlessly against the Palestinian Arab population.

The author, Gideon Weigert, is the former head of Arab affairs at the Jerusalem Post, and a permanent columnist to many Israeli Arab newspapers. He is considered a foremost Israeli authority on Palestinians and he indeed has impressive credentials. A Jewish immigrant from Germany, Weigert arrived in Mandatory Palestine in 1933. He quickly learnt the Arabic language and subsequently embarked

upon a programme of intensive learning in Arabic literature as well as Islamic religion and its history. In 1942 he was the first Jewish graduate of "Al-Nahda" Arab national colleges in Jerusalem.

The book has two clear tracks. The author's personal contacts with the Palestinians and bonds with his Arab friends which are rooted in the firm foundations of humanity. And then there is clear Zionist political propaganda of the worst sort.

On the personal level, the enchantment, fascination and a genuine love of "the young German-born Jew (who) was charmed by the simplicity, warm hospitality and kindness of this (Palestinian) society" is obvious. His accounts of his close integration into his foster families certainly depict the existence of a strong human bond that transcends religion and race and also reflects upon the fabled Arab hospitality. His narration of his first encounter with Abu Ali, the story teller sheikh, makes fascinating reading and gives the reader a rare insight into the rich urban Arab culture of Jerusalem. As does the author's account of a Mawled evening in honour of the Prophet's birthday complete with Sufi rituals. The chapter on the author's Arab girlfriend, though rather cryptic to read, shows the existence of a transcendent bond between people.

However, all this rather sharply contrasts with a strong dose of subtle and not so subtle Zionist propaganda. The author talks about a case of Arab inhabitants of 30 villages on the border between Israel and the West Bank in 1949. These people were given a choice between staying under Israeli occupation and leaving their homes and lands and

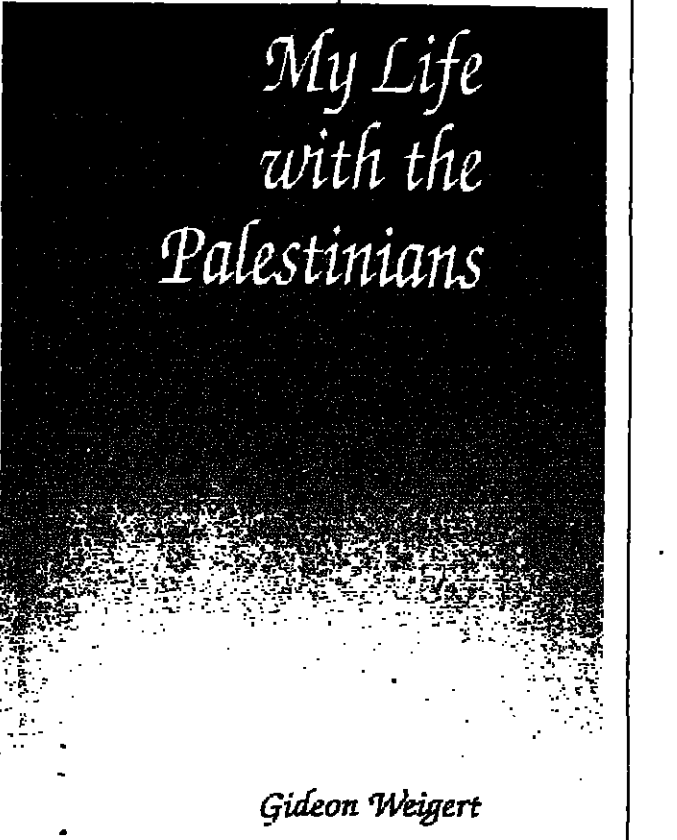
becoming refugees, and they chose to stay. The author naively attributes their action to the excellent Israeli treatment of the Arabs. The thought that these people were demonstrating the proof of their genuine attachment to and ownership of their land doesn't seem to cross the author's mind. His reference to the West Bank as an area "then occupied by Jordan" shows not only historical ignorance but also, perhaps complete lack of the understanding of the Arab position in the conflict. The author devotes a whole chapter to the "Shuhada, or the Martyrs of peace" and makes much of the fact that "hundreds of Palestinians" were killed or injured in intra-Palestinian violence. However, no mention is made of about a thousand Palestinians who were killed by the Israeli troops in the same period, another three thousand who were permanently crippled and several thousand more who suffered injuries and torture at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. His reference to the West Bank city of Nablus as the capital of "Samaria" gives yet another clue about an absolute lack of sensitivity towards the Arab position.

The book on the whole leaves the reader with the feeling that despite having had many seemingly enriching experiences with the Palestinians, Mr. Weigert has learned nothing of their national aspirations and has no sympathy for their sufferings under an oppressive occupation regime.

Hasher Majoka

BOOK REVIEW

My Life with the Palestinians



Gideon Weigert

For the sake of ...

By Jean-Claude Elias

EACH FIELD, each discipline creates its own needs, its own idiosyncrasies. The computer world is particularly good at it. Only those who live or are entrapped in the PC microcosm — macrocosm should I say, given the size it has reached — may fully understand what will follow. Then again, this is not a limitation since most of us, one way or another, are involved with personal computers.

There are those who use computers to "do something," to produce a certain result, and there are those who use them, well, just for the sake of using them. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the second attitude, as long as there is no confusion between it and the first one.

A writer who buys a PC to write a book, using word processing software, doesn't really care if the machine has XXX megabytes of memory, a hard disk of YYY brand and runs on electricity, solar power or diesel fuel. As long as the programme and the equipment are working without failure and the computer is doing its job with satisfactory speed, the writer will be happy. In other words what really matters to him is his book and not his PC. The latter is only the accessory, the tool that allows the artist to produce the book. The same can be said about an accountant, a journalist or a musician who would use computers to do a given, a specific job.

Enter the PC aficionado. This breed, quite common these days, is simply in love with the machine. That is with the equipment and the software itself. The PC lover will stare at the monitor for hours admiring its colours, its size. He or she — yes, there ARE female PC lovers — will spend hours evaluating the access time of the memory chips, expressed in nanoseconds or billionths of a second, or carefully studying the resolution of the monitor.

Those who make the computer industry are perfectly aware of the presence of this special category of users and are keen to give them food for thought in the form of countless accessories, optional hardware, software or even meaningless technical characteristics. It would be impossible to provide here even a partial list of the many but

chip talk



non-essential hardware and software products available on the market.

A simple example however. For about JD50 one can buy a radio-tuner card that can be installed inside a PC. This would allow the reception of AM and FM radio programmes via the computer's sound system. Now think twice, how much does a real radio set cost? Less than JD50 certainly (except for certain high-end stereo hi-fi models), and it would be a dedicated device that doesn't need a PC to work. In most cases a separate radio set would be more practical, more appropriate and cheaper to use than the PC radio-tuner card. Someone madly in love with his computer however would rather buy the card, without caring at all for the feasible aspect of the question. He or she would do it just for the pleasure of "doing it with a PC."

One must admit that the attitude of the PC aficionado is not negative at all. It always comes with a certain amount of experimental spirit that may prove to be useful sooner or later. It also increases the technical knowledge and the computer awareness of the user. Those who enjoy trying new devices and programmes or who keep upgrading their machine every other week-end are not interested in being efficient or reasonable. They are just having a good time playing with their computer. Besides, if it keeps both the industry and the users happy, who are we to judge them and why should we complain?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, September 25, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Ovide And The Gang |
| 2:30 | The New Fred And Barney |
| 3:00 | America's Funniest People |
| 3:30 | He Shoots He Scores |
| 4:30 | Shingalana |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Trivial Pursuit |
| 8:00 | The Parenthood |
| 8:30 | Lois And Clark — Superman |
| 9:10 | Kung Fu — The Legend Continues |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Movie |
| 12:00 | Step By Step |
| 12:00 | End Of T.X. |

Friday, September 26, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:05 | Flintstones |
| 2:30 | Leo The Lion |
| 3:00 | Wishbone |
| 3:30 | French Programme |
| 4:00 | Family Matters |
| 4:30 | NBA |
| 5:00 | French Programme |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:15 | French Programme |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | The Health Show |
| 8:30 | Hawkeye Of Brisco County |
| 9:10 | Clive James Postcards |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Best Seller |
| 11:15 | Movie Or Daddy's Girls |

Saturday, September 27, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Twinkle |
| 2:30 | Muppet Show |
| 3:00 | Blue Heelers |
| 3:30 | World Of Geo |
| 4:00 | The Valley Between |
| 4:30 | Tilt |
| 5:00 | French Programme |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | The Newly Weds |
| 8:30 | Prism |
| 9:10 | Time Trax |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 11:15 | Movie |
| 12:00 | End Of T.X. |

Sunday, September 28, 1997

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Little Rosey |
| 2:30 | The Magic School Bus |
| 3:00 | Lucky Luke |
| 3:40 | Energy Express |
| 4:00 | American Chart Show |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |

Monday, September 29, 1997

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 7:35 | Fresh Prince Of Belair |
| 8:00 | Cinema, Cinema, Cinema |
| 8:30 | National Geographic |
| 9:10 | Renegade |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | One West Waikiki |
| 11:15 | Sisters |
| 12:00 | End Of T.X. |

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Sandocan |
| 2:30 | C.R.O. |
| 3:00 | Square One T.V. |
| 3:30 | Skippy |
| 4:00 | Album Show |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Coach |
| 8:00 | Tilt 23.5 |
| 8:30 | Encounter |
| 9:10 | Nature Of Things (Documentary) |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Great Defender |
| 11:15 | I Remember Nelson |
| 12:00 | End Of T.X. |

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 2:00 | Holy Koran |
| 2:10 | Jonny Quest |
| 2:30 | Super Dave |
| 3:00 | Secrets Of Treasure Island |
| 3:30 | Spell Binder |
| 4:00 | Munsters Today |
| 4:30 | Border Town |
| 5:00 | French Programmes |
| 7:00 | Le Journal |
| 7:30 | News Headlines |
| 7:35 | Neighbours |
| 8:00 | Soldier's Diary |
| 8:30 | Oprah Winfrey Show |
| 9:10 | Challenges |
| 10:00 | News In English |
| 10:30 | Land's End |
| 11:15 | American Gothic |
| 12:00 | End Of T.X. |

Righting a wrong kind of publicity

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

ONE MIGHTY fine project that I can think of to make Jordan a country better equipped to face the 21st century is that we privatise our national advertising campaigns.

This would mean that we delegate the task of presenting Jordan to the world to a specialised advertising agency to do what we have so far been unable to do: Better advertise Jordan in the world media.

Rest assured, first, that I would not have suggested this if it were true that those currently doing this job are doing it well, because it is very clear that they are not, and second, that this issue has nothing to do with sovereignty.

My reason for bringing forth this suggestion is that, and not for the first time, I have heard from many friends and tourists visiting Jordan that they had thought upon coming to Jordan that Petra was not an entire city, but just the Treasury, and that Amman was a city not worth visiting if it were not for some Roman ruins.

Vis-a-vis the first point, neither you nor I can blame the tourists because the only part of Petra ever publicised in posters is the Treasury. As far as the second is concerned, even many of our own travel agents seem to preclude Amman from any travel itinerary within the country.

As things stand at this time, the tourists who come to Jordan and visit Amman leave to tell others that there is not much to see in our capital city.

True, we may have the amphitheatre and the concept of a "Downtown," but why does it come as a shock to us to find out that many tourists also want to visit restaurants and coffee shops in areas where many Ammanites spend their time?

Again, why is the only Tourist Visitor Centre down by the Roman Amphitheatre? Can we at least consider placing another centre, or more, in one of the more populous areas of western Amman?



In all honesty, tourists who go downtown come out with the impression that our society is one that does not allow women either to work or go out on the streets because, according to them, they only see men down there.

The inability to tackle this problem in the future will only bring shame to us all.

The coffee shops of Shmeisani and Abdoun (in spite of their many faults and somewhat clueless clientele) should be well advertised and made accessible to any tourist group visiting Jordan. We need to let the tourists know that there is a "nightlife" in Amman beyond hotel bars and belly dancers.

We also need to be sure that we can offer that which we print we offer. For example, if the timetable of the Airport Express says that a bus leaves for the airport from the stop outside the Forte Grand Hotel at 2:07 a.m., then this has to be true. Unfortunately, this sort of reliability is something that we need to work on a lot more.

At the end of the day, my mission as a writer can only be to ask that Jordan be given the very best that it deserves. If there is anyone out there, please let me know that you care enough to do some good!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

FACTS FILE

• GEORGE I who ruled England between 1714-1727 had never learned the English language.

• THE "MUD JUMPER" can move on the ground and breathe through the skin of its tail.

• A CENTENARIAN from New York is still incredibly driving his own car by himself.

• IN one of the Virginian towns the people used to celebrate the "Stumbling Carpets Day" on May 6 every year.

• AN AMERICAN remained sleeping in the open for eight successive years, i.e. about 2920 nights.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** If ever the need arises.

Etha iqtada al-amr.

** Hit the right nail on the head.

Idrib ala al-water al-hassas.

** He hasn't a penny to his name.

Oaysa lahu raseed.

** His words get on my nerves.

Kalamobu yorhiq a'sabi.

** You needn't get mad!

La tagh'dab.

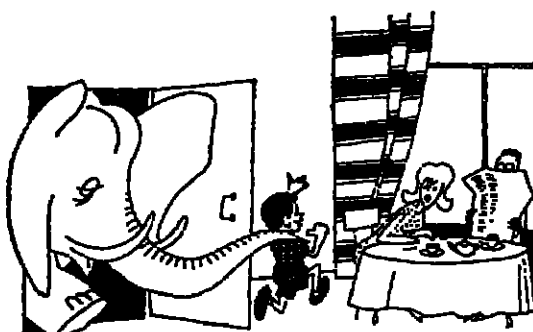
** That's too much for me.

Inna hatha fawqa taqati.

** This story has moved me greatly.

Laqad ath'harat haathehi al-gissa fee nafsi kathiran.

JOKES



"Mum, our teacher of zoology told us to have some animal at home."

• "HOW can you distinguish between your twin babies since they look completely alike?"
"That's very simple, madam."
"How could it be?"
"Whenever I put my finger in one of each child's mouth, the one who bites me is certain to be Jehad."

• OUR FRIEND'S WIFE was going to have her fifth baby. She was extremely amazed when she read an article saying that every fifth baby ever born in the world must be "a Chinese."

In great haste, she directly went to see the family doctor and declared:
"I SWEAR BY GOD, SIR. THAT I'VE NEVER

KNOWN ANYBODY ELSE SAVE MY HUSBAND."

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

• **THROWING OLD SHOES:** In Anglo-Saxon marriages the bride's father presented his daughter's shoes to her bridegroom, who touched her on the head with it to remind her that he was now her master. Then the throwing of shoes came to be considered a sign of good luck. "Nowe for goode lucke caste an olde shoe after mee." The custom is also symbolical of the parting of the new life from the old, or shaking the dust of a place from one's feet and severing all connection with it.

• **A TEAR HANDKERCHIEF:** In some parts of the Tyrol a beautiful old custom is still observed. When the bride is starting for the church, her mother gives her a fine handkerchief, woven for the purpose with the best linen possible. This is called the "Tear Kerchief," and with it the girls is supposed to dry the tears she will naturally shed on leaving home. After the wedding day the "Tear Kerchief" is folded up carefully and laid in the linen closet, where it remains until its owner's death; then it is taken out and spread over her face.

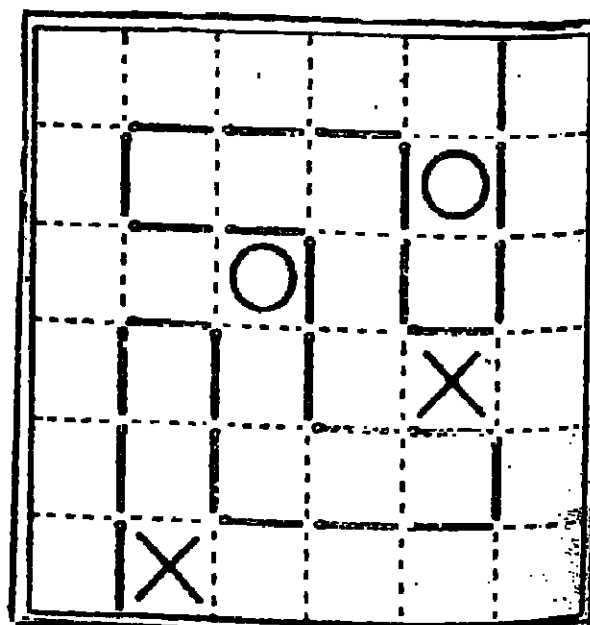
PUZZLES

NOUGHTS & CROSSES

Twenty-six matches have been used to divide the illustrated diagram into two parts, each of the same size and shape one part containing the two "noughts" and the other two "crosses."

This is an unnecessarily large number of matches to use, since a similar result can be attained by using twenty matches.

Where would you place them?



Arts & C
For Kim
fire ball'
Veronica

History an

By Sara Henley

Reader

Marlene's room had been decorated with purple and white. But John...
...the simple...
...you can reside in the...
...from 1930s and 1940s...
...look in the mirror, you...
...Rita Hayworth, but using...
...delightful bed and...
...themed on movie stars...
...The Wind memorabilia...
...in the tiny seaside...
...to call their Riviera...
...sparkle of the...
...also a...
...museum to Finnish...
...of an often-beleaguered...
...rug-making, fishing...
...Finland's southernmost...
...and nowadays a...
...graced with miles of sandy...
...many of the battles that...
...with anniversary this year

If you don't have it, bor

between Sweden and Russia

between the imperial powers until R

Experts sce

by Koichi Kawaguchi

Reader

While some...
...large part...
...variety of le...
...available to...
...and the pris...
...the poor qua...
...movies.
...This year...
...film busi...
...signs it...
...long.
...At the M...
...Festival in...
...The Fei...
...Shohei Imam...
...Golden Palm...
...Award with...
...Abbas. K...
...Last Of The...
...Unagi is a...
...man who, wh...
...eight-year p...
...the stabbing...
...unfaithful wi...
...true feelings...
...Earlier this...
...by Taket...
...well-known...
...senality, was...
...Lion Award...
...at the Venice...
...A comedy...
...Dance", direc

The tribe that finally hit the jackpot

By David Spanier

WE ALL thought we had heard the last of the Mohicans, but the famous Indian tribe is riding the range again. Today the Mohicans, reborn, have found a new vocation. Instead of tracking wolves in the greenwoods of Connecticut, the braves are scalping the palefaces across the green baize — to the tune of \$100m profit a year. It is a success story as unexpected as it is romantic.

Before the night has come, have I lived to see the last warrior of the Mohicans? lamented James Fenimore Cooper in his stirring story of 1826. This fine phrase, which passed into modern folklore, no longer holds true. Before the night has come, a thousand twinkling lights will be gleaming around the dome of the tribe's hi-tech casino. They shine down on thousands of tense, eager faces along the rows of slot machines and blackjack tables.

For the Mohegans (modern spelling) are alive and well and running their own casino. The Mohegan Sun, buzzing with excited gamblers, old and young, is only two hours 20 minutes' drive from New York. It is attracting between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors a day and expanding fast.

In its first year of operation since opening last October, the casino's gross revenue is likely to reach \$350m (estimates vary). "That yields a 30 per cent profit, but we hope to raise the figure to 32 per cent or 33 per cent next year," says executive vice president Bill Velardo. Financial backing has come from a surprising source, Sol Kerzner, creator of Sun City in South Africa.

Kerzner, now out of South Africa, is a controversial figure. "All work and a lot of play makes money," is his motto. His group runs several tropical resorts, notably Paradise Island in the Bahamas, which was for years a dead end. His aim is to "blow away the customer" — dazzle him with entertainment value.

On the strength of a handshake with the tribal leader, a partnership called Trading Cove Associates was set up to develop and manage the casino, and Kerzner put his "can do" policy into high gear. He helped the tribe float a \$175m bond on Wall Street, and provided £90m in investment and \$40 in equipment financing. The Mohegan Sun was up and running within a year of construction.

In return, Sun International Hotels receives a 40 per cent share of the profits over the next seven years. This might seem a large chunk, but the tribal leadership is content. "If they're getting \$400m, that means we are making a billion," says tribal chairman, Roland Harris.

Kerzner was finally granted a gaming licence in Connecticut in July 1996. The casino opened three months later. A huge white dome, like a gigantic flying saucer, the building was formerly a factory for nuclear reactor components. Hidden below the main highway, the casino sits astride the reservation in a green valley overlooking the Thames River. It is big — 60,000 square feet with 2,700 slot machines and 180 gaming tables.

Built to a circular (wigwam) design, the casino has a woodsy, outdoors feel about it, thanks to decorative use of timber and water and Indian motifs. The gambling floor is divided into four sections portraying spring, summer, autumn and winter, highlighting seasonal changes in Mohegan life. The whole structure, in the architect David Rockwell's formula, strives to combine nature with theatricality. One aspect of this is slot-machine games with names such as Cash Canoe and Mohegan Money Tree.

How does the remnant of a small tribe, long languishing in the backwoods of Connecticut, set about operating a modern casino? Answer: By joining forces with the paleface invaders. Top management has been hired from the American gaming industry.

As often happens with economic success, some opposition has been aroused. But the strength of feelings is less in the local community — the 5,000 full-time jobs in the enterprise were applied for many times over — than among the Mohegans' native American rivals, the Mashantucket Pequot. Ten miles down the road in the greenwoods lies the reservation of the Pequot tribe, the fox people. Foxwoods has established itself as the biggest and most profitable casino resort in the United States. Relations between the two tribes, in diplomatic parlance, are correct rather than cordial.

Their rivalry goes back a long way. The early Mohicans, known as the wolf people, attracted by the hunting and shellfish along the coast, became known as "invaders" to other tribes. But the English invasion was far more threatening. The pilgrims' ship was described as an animal with wings — "when it spoke it made a noise like thunder and smoke and fire came out of its mouth and it would swallow all the Indians up."

Around 1635, in the quarrel between the tribes over whether to resist or placate the European invaders, the Mohicans and the Pequots split. Uncas, leader of the Mohicans, sought to cooperate with the colonists and managed to preserve a measure of independence for his own people. The Pequots were massacred.

Now their tribal rivalry is being played out in a new form, in casino gambling. Foxwoods has proved such a gigantic success that it is outperforming even the glitzy palaces of Las Vegas. In comparison, the Mohegan Sun is a mere cub. "We think the two properties will support each other," says Velardo. "There is room for both of us to grow."



raphy: 22 million people live within a radius of 150 miles.

Where do the Mohegans go from here? A mile outside the casino, on a little hill, stands the tribal museum. This is no more than a wooden hut but an extraordinary place, not least for the presence of Gladys Tantaquideon, a sprightly 98-year-old. She

is described as the tribe's medicine woman, a living repository of wisdom and tradition. She greets visitors to the museum, which is a jumble of mementoes, documents, old photos, feathers, tomahawks, utensils and many other curiosities, every day. "This is home," says Jane Fawcett, simply but

with great feeling. As vice-chairperson of the tribal council, she has lived in the house next door all her life. She is far more involved with the culture of the Mohegans than the operation of the casino, though it is the latter that funds the health, education and welfare of her people. Gladys Tantaquideon

knows how to make a cordial from forest herbs and is wise in many precepts of nature, such as that when dogwoods bloom it is time to fish for shad. But her importance to the tribe is far greater than merely recalling folklore. Her collection of documents and records, including hundreds of postcards from Mohegan

people, played a decisive role in establishing the continuity of the tribe, in securing federal recognition in 1994. The Mohicans are here to stay.

The Independent

Crown Prince says Jordan made major strides towards global integration

(Continued from page 1)

sector Prince Hassan said: "We have started privatising state-owned enterprises through a process that will increase their value to society and replacing public monopolies with private monopolies," adding that privatisation can succeed if enterprises operate on a commercial basis in a competitive environment.

Referring to aviation and its importance to the economy, Prince Hassan said the "global trend towards privatisation will inevitably include sectors like aviation, which is an area where services need to be managed within the global system."

Stating Jordan's objectives in this endeavour, Prince Hassan said: "Our economic policy aims at creating a dynamic market in which the role of the government is restricted to that of a catalyst. The government and the private sector must build a partnership based on mutual trust, and nourished through continued dialogue and interaction."

He said: "We believe that partnership with the private sector will lead to a sustainable economic development process. Our goal is to ensure that this process will reflect on all segments of society and improve the quality of life for all, for human dignity and the well-being of people is the objective of development."

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Bassam Saket addressed the meeting echoing the Crown Prince's words that the government was seeking to liberalise the national economy and noting that through reforms and sound policies Jordan has succeeded in achieving 6.5 per cent economic growth in terms of the gross domestic product over the past three years and reduced its external

debts from 191 per cent in 1990 to less than 90 per cent within five years.

Referring to the transport sector in Jordan, the minister said the government is giving it due attention in view of its vital importance to the economy noting that the government was embarking on expanding roads, railways, airports and seaports and above all it is modernising laws governing this vital sector.

More than 150 delegates representing 25 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the meeting and discussing issues pertaining to aviation infrastructure, legal, financial and other issues related to air navigation, trade relations and airport services among others.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials were present at the opening session.

Arab League meeting achieved Arab consensus — Tarawneh

(Continued from page 1)

to the Arab World but expressed the Arab concern over the military exercises Turkey plans to hold with Israel and the United States.

Dr Tarawneh met Tuesday evening with Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy and reviewed with him the peace process in light of Mrs. Albright's recent visit to the

Middle East. He also voiced Jordan's condemnation of this week's shooting of two Israeli staff members in Amman.

Dr Tarawneh reiterated Jordan's keenness to see Israel resuming its peace negotiations with the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Syrians and demanded that Israel lift its restrictions and other measures imposed on

the Palestinian people and implement the Oslo accord so that final status negotiations could start.

Dr Tarawneh also stressed that the success of the Doha conference depends on the improvement of the political atmosphere in the Middle East and progress in the peace process.

Netanyahu vows to boost settlements; PNA cracks down on Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

Islamist leaders "lied about where the bombers came from," he said.

Mr. Abdul Rahim declined to comment on the resignation report and it was not known if Mr. Arafat had accepted his offer. But Mr. Abdul Rahim told AFP that Mr. Arafat announced at their meeting Tuesday night that if the suicide bombers were Hamas members from inside PNA areas, "the [Palestinian National] Authority will take all necessary measures to fight the terrorists."

At Israel's request, senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials and a representative of the CIA met overnight in the West Bank town of Ramallah to discuss action against Hamas.

Israeli security officials said they had handed their Palestinian counterparts an updated list of Palestinians they want detained for involvement in organising terrorist attacks.

They said that although four of the five suicide bombers had been identified, the support networks and leaders behind them remained intact and were

plotting further attacks from areas under PNA control.

The breakthrough in the bombing investigation coincided with the start of separate talks in Washington between U.S. mediators and Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

The talks are to set the stage for a three-way meeting next week between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Mahmoud Abbas — the highest level contacts between the two sides since the Jerusalem bombings.

Meanwhile, Israel Wednesday let an additional 4,000 Palestinian workers into the country in a further easing of sanctions imposed over a pair of suicide bombings blamed on Palestinian radicals, the army said.

Of the 4,000, half live in the Gaza Strip and half in the West Bank, an army spokesman said.

The move raises to more than 17,000 the number of Palestinians allowed into Israel to work, he added. Israel also raised the number of traders allowed in by 1,000 to 5,000.

Easing Libya ban weakens U.N. on Israel — Cook

(Continued from page 1)

would only implement any easing with the permission of the Security Council.

League Secretary-General Esmat Meguid said in Cairo that, since the ban was imposed by the council, Arab states would approach it with a unified stand for the United Nations to take measures to ease the embargo.

Responding to a question about Arab anger at Britain's reaction to the original league decision, Mr. Cook said the "frustration is entirely on our side."

"What happened on the Pan Am jet was an act of mass murder," he said. "We have produced a

very detailed charge sheet which makes it plain why the two named individuals there have a case to answer and should face trial in court for that act of mass murder."

If anyone had a right to express frustration it was the British authorities, "who are unable to proceed with that trial because of the persistent refusal of the Libyan authorities to hand over the two accused men to stand trial," he said.

Referring to alternative trial venues suggested by Arab, African and non-aligned countries, the foreign secretary said: "There is no way in which a case could be heard outside Scotland under Scottish law. There

is no provision in Scottish law for a Scottish court to sit outside Scottish jurisdiction. Nor could we possibly take a Scottish jury to sit in a third country."

Mr. Cook expressed confidence that as fair a trial could be provided in Scotland as anywhere else in the world, saying Libyan and international observers could be present at all stages of court proceedings.

"It is now up to the Libyan authorities to carry out what is plainly their duty as a member of the international community," he added.

Russia opposes 'monopoly' on Mideast peacemaking, slams Israel on deadlock

(Continued from page 1)

"The Middle East crisis is continuing and it will be very difficult to overcome, largely I think because of Israel's unconstructive position," Mr. Yeltsin told a group of reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The United States has some influence on Israel and should work here more actively although we too should do more in this direction," he said. Mr. Yeltsin rejected allegations by some Israeli politicians that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was to blame for recent bomb attacks in Israel which have deepened the crisis. "One should not blame Mr. Arafat today for terrorist acts, that's not serious," he said.

He said that, as a co-sponsor, he supported the principle of negotiations based on a "land-for-peace" formula and that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had told him he wanted more Russian involvement in the peace process. "He told me he does not feel our presence as a co-sponsor," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Jordan Times
Tel:
684311-699634

10

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Private hospitals need administrative specialists, medical technology experts

**** THE HIGH price of medicines and expensive medical treatment at private hospitals are considered to be the big problem for the people and the hospitals as well.** Mahmoud Al Taher, the president of the Private Hospitals' Society, said in an interview. He attributed that to the most advanced technological equipment found at the private hospitals.

"The cost of the equipment and the continued need to maintain them reflect on the cost of treatment," Dr. Taher said noting that most of the medical supplies are imported. The president of the society called for raising the efficiency of bed occupancy rates at private hospitals as such a rate at present averages about 60 per cent. "By raising the rate to 80 per cent, the sector will be given added support and will save the cost of building and equipping a new hospital with an 800-bed capacity," Dr. Taher said.

He continued by pointing out that despite the tremendous efforts exerted by the private hospital to serve Jordan and boost the Kingdom's international image in the medical sphere, the private hospitals suffer from a major lack of administrative experience. He specifically mentioned hospital administration and planning of medical budgets.

Dr. Taher concluded by highlighting also the need for Jordanian expertise in medical technology as there are very few persons who qualify as such (Al Arab Al Yawm).

British businessmen begin visit today

**** THE BIRMINGHAM Chamber of Commerce and Industry will lead a mission of British businessmen to Jordan from Sept. 25 to Sept. 30.** The group will include senior representatives from five companies specialised in the manufacturing of water

meters, equipment for handling and packaging of solid material, electric installation equipment, swimming pool equipment, as well as a company specialised in designing, operating and maintaining infrastructure activities in various fields.

Members of the mission will hold working meetings with Jordanian businessmen as well as visits to Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab and the Investment Promotion Corporation.

This is the second British trade mission to visit Amman this month, the first was organised by the Welsh Office and included representatives from seven British companies. The Commercial Section at the British embassy is currently busy preparing for a larger mission that will be led by the British minister of construction early next month.

Italian Trade Commission selects eight Jordanians for training course

**** THE ITALIAN Trade Commission, under the patronage of the Italian embassy and in cooperation with Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) has selected eight Jordanians to attend a training course in Italy on management, international marketing and export promotion.**

The aim of the course, which will also be attended by seven Palestinians and nine Egyptians, is to give an opening into the Italian economic and business world, providing opportunities for young managers and entrepreneurs to initiate joint-ventures, trade and new business developments with Italian counterparts.

The course includes six weeks developing topics related to international trade, export marketing and techniques, etc., and two weeks visiting plants, companies, trade associations and trade fairs.

The Italian Trade Commission covers all the costs referred to travel, study tours, accommodation, tuition fees, insurance and pocket money.

Israel thanks World Bank, IMF for help to Palestinian economy

HONG KONG (AFP) — Israel Wednesday thanked the World Bank and IMF for their aid to the Palestinian economy, saying it hoped their efforts would not be undermined by terrorism.

"In particular I would like to commend their efforts to assist the incipient Palestinian economy, and thereby promote peace," Israeli Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman told the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and

World Bank here.

"We hope that these efforts will not be undermined by recurring acts of terrorism" which "endanger the peace process and bring devastation to the Palestinians and their economy," he said.

"We continue to seek peace and security with the Palestinian(s) and with all other countries in the region."

He stressed that the slowdown in Israel's growth rate since the middle of last year "is not a recession," saying

the economy "has the potential for an even higher growth rate than the indicators show."

Mr. Neeman said his government has acted to bring the economy back on track, although "it is not easy to implement a restrictive policy during a time of slower economic growth."

"However, we are aware that there are times when we must exercise policy restraint in the short-term in order to benefit in the long-term."

Ministry of Health borrows JD3 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi has called on the Cabinet to levy a one file tax on each medical prescription and each cigarette box, a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i said Wednesday.

Dr. Kurdi said the new tax, which is similar to the one file rural electrification tax collected with the monthly electricity bill, will be used to improve medical services and medical care.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry has borrowed JD3 million from the Social Security Corporation to partly settle the ministry's bill for drug stores and drug suppliers.

The ministry will also allocate JD2.5 million from its current budget to settle the remaining balance of its debt, totalling JD11.5 million, to drug stores and medicine suppliers within the next 10 days.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry's debt to drug stores and suppliers amounts to JD11.5 million, rather than JD20 million as mentioned by drug stores.

Dr. Kurdi attributed the shortage of medicines at the Ministry of Health stores to the shortfall of cash liquidity and to the excessive use of prescriptions and drugs.

IMF chief says Asia turbulence underscores risks of global economy

HONG KONG (AFP) — IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus warned Tuesday that turbulence sweeping South East Asian financial markets underscored the new risks and requirements of a globalised world economy.

Mr. Camdessus told annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the crisis that emerged in Thailand was "disturbing ... because it was foreseen and preventable, but still struck with full force."

Pressure on Thailand's baht, intermittent in 1996, increased and "in the absence of a sufficiently

comprehensive set of measures, the crisis broke," spreading anxiety to other countries in the region.

The decision to free the baht from its dollar link on July 2 sent the currency plunging and necessitated a \$17.2 billion IMF-brokered rescue as Thai financial markets came under attack.

Mr. Camdessus congratulated Thai authorities for the "courage" to embark on "a bold and comprehensive programme that goes to the heart of market concerns about large external deficits and troubled financial institutions."

"Naturally it will take time and forceful action by

the authorities to restore market confidence," he told the participants.

He said the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, which were struck by the financial turbulence, had taken measures to address their problems and he expected the economies to emerge "stronger than before."

Mr. Camdessus said countries seeking to tap global capital markets must pursue sound and transparent policies that instill confidence and respect the signals the markets provide.

For Asia, the priority should be "the pressing business of strengthening

current account positions and ensuring financial sector soundness, rather than by spurring growth prematurely."

For Europe as it heads towards economic and monetary union, reform of social security systems and labour and product markets should be given as much urgency as setting fiscal consolidation targets, he said.

Mr. Camdessus reported to the boards of governors of the World Bank and the IMF that the global environment was "generally favourable."

He said global inflation remained subdued, fiscal deficits were being reduced

in many countries, exchange rates among major currencies "appear to be consistent with economic fundamentals," and world economy was expanding 4.25 per cent in 1997 and 1998 after growth of 4.0 per cent last year.

Progress towards economic monetary union in Europe was to be applauded.

But there were problems in achieving sustainable growth "that results in a permanent reduction in poverty and greater equality of economic opportunity, and is respectful of national cultures and traditions," Mr. Camdessus said.

He cited labour market problems in Europe, fragile banking systems and "persistent inequalities" in economic opportunities in parts of Asia and Latin America, "but not exclusively there."

Inefficient use of public resources perpetuated poverty and impeded development in "all to many" countries.

There was also the risk of inflation picking up again in economies "where output is pressing upon capacity."

He said there was a need for international solidarity, particularly for Africa and the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries, which while performing better needed "a powerful boost towards an early, safe and full integration into the world economy" if the poorest are not to be marginalised.

Mr. Camdessus said the lesson to be drawn from the recent developments in South East Asia was "not about the risks of globalisation — and still less about demonising the markets — but rather about the importance of good citizenship 'when tapping them.'"

"Indeed, countries cannot compete for the blessings of the global capital markets and refuse their disciplines," he said.

Urging "an orderly liberalisation of capital markets," Mr. Camdessus encouraged countries to "remove controls in a way that supports the drive towards sustainable macro-economic policies, strong monetary and financial sectors and lasting liberalisation."

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The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
| US Dollar | - | 1.7740 | 0.6210 | 1.4584 | 120.33 | 1.3877 | 1732.20 | 1.9886 | 5.9627 |
| DE Mark | 0.5637 | - | 0.3498 | 0.8221 | 67.79 | 0.7820 | 975.23 | 1.1258 | 3.3580 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6102 | 2.8573 | - | 2.3492 | 153.73 | 2.2345 | 2787.80 | 3.2165 | 9.5984 |
| JP Yen | 0.0083 | 1.4743 | 0.5159 | 1.2128 | - | 1.1535 | 14.38 | 168.02 | 4.9537 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7206 | 1.2772 | 0.4486 | 1.0539 | 1.15 | - | 1247.54 | 1.4380 | 4.2890 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0242 | 0.3583 | 0.0843 | 1441.75 | 0.8012 | - | 11.53 | 3.4407 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5004 | 88.78 | 0.3106 | 73.06 | 60.14 | 0.8944 | 868.03 | - | 2.9823 |
| FR Franc | 0.1677 | 0.2973 | 0.1040 | 24.4803 | 20.14 | 0.2328 | 33.47 | 33.4700 | - |

| Middle Eastern Currencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | LBP | EGP |
| US Dollar | - | 0.7080 | 3.7504 | 0.3770 | 3.6402 | 0.3043 | 3.6728 | 1537.00 | 3.3976 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4124 | - | 5.2972 | 0.5325 | 5.1415 | 0.4298 | 5.1877 | 2170.90 | 4.7987 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2686 | 0.1888 | - | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0811 | 0.98 | 409.82 | 0.9059 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8781 | 9.9485 | - | 9.98 | 0.8072 | 9.74 | 4077.14 | 9.0124 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0303 | - | 1.03 | 0.0836 | 1.01 | 422.23 | 0.9333 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2862 | 2.3287 | 12.3247 | 1.2388 | 11.96 | - | 12.07 | 5050.94 | 0.9333 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0211 | 0.1028 | 0.9911 | 0.0829 | - | 418.47 | 0.9250 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4606 | 2.4401 | 0.2453 | 2.3684 | 0.1980 | 2.3897 | - | 2.2105 |
| Egyptian | 0.2943 | 0.2084 | 1.1039 | 0.1110 | 1.0714 | 0.0896 | 1.0811 | 452.39 | - |

| Energy | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Oil | Last | Previous |
| Brent | 18.91 | 18.93 |
| W. Texa | 19.85 | 19.88 |
| Bonny | 18.91 | 18.93 |
| Dubai | 17.80 | 17.96 |
| UL Gas | 194.00 | 200.00 |

| Mid-East Currencies | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
| SA Riyal | 0.2686 | 0.4732 | 0.1856 | 0.3894 | 32.077 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.4831 | 0.1891 | 0.3978 | 32.754 |
| KW Dinar | 3.2862 | 5.8309 | 2.0408 | 4.7885 | 395.26 |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 4.7081 | 1.6474 | 3.873 | 319.08 |
| CY Pound | 1.9011 | 3.3758 | 1.1809 | 2.7759 | 228.81 |

| Metal Prices | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--|
| Metal | Bid | Offer | |
| Gold (oz's) | 322.7 | 323.2 | |
| Silver (oz's) | 4.73 | 4.75 | |
| Platinum (oz's) | 438 | 441 | |
| AL (3 Months) | 1638 | 1639 | |
| CU (3 Months) | 2107 | 2109 | |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1430 | 1431 | |
| Lead (3 Months) | 648 | 649 | |
| NI (3 Months) | 6445 | 6455 | |

| Currency Deposit Rates (Bid) | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Period | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 24 | 36 | 48 |
| Currency | Month | Months | Months | Months | Months | Months | Months | Months | Months |
| USD | 5.56 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 | 5.58 |
| GBP | 7.05 | 7.06 | 7.37 | 7.34 | 7.41 | - | - | - | - |
| JPY | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | - | - | - | - |
| DEM | 3.11 | 3.23 | 3.19 | 3.31 | 3.44 | - | - | - | - |
| FRF | 3.21 | 3.29 | 3.36 | 3.52 | 3.60 | - | - | - | - |
| CHF | 1.28 | 1.34 | 1.54 | 1.88 | 1.78 | - | - | - | - |
| ITL | 6.40 | 6.24 | 6.09 | 5.80 | 5.60 | - | - | - | - |

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------|---------|
| HOUSING BANK CREDIT AMMAN - SHARISANI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607175 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/09/1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH LOW | | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE | | | | | |
| 346,000 | 241,500 | ARAB BANK | 15.4 | 1.19 | 6 | 340 | 114340 | 336.00 | 335.00 | -0.09 | 1.00 | - | - | - | |
| 2,340 | 1,680 | JOR. NATIONAL BK. | 6.3 | 0.00 | 41 | 50232 | 97018 | 1.96 | 1.92 | -0.04 | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,600 | 2,760 | BANK OF JORDAN | 6.3 | 0.00 | 2 | 5500 | 16500 | 3.00 | 3.00 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,210 | 890 | MID. EAST INTL. BK. | 60.4 | 0.00 | 8 | 11250 | 10338 | 1.92 | 1.92 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 2,480 | 2,150 | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 10.2 | 6.79 | 2 | 1450 | 1046 | 2.32 | 2.33 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 5,200 | 4,600 | THE HOUSING BK. | 14.8 | 3.92 | 3 | 526 | 2602 | 4.97 | 4.95 | -0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 4,180 | 2,440 | JOR. KUMAT BANK | 11.1 | 0.00 | 6 | 1612 | 5060 | 3.14 | 3.14 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,050 | 740 | JOR. GULF BANK | 4.5 | 9.33 | 10 | 16250 | 12185 | 7.75 | 7.75 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 4,050 | 3,520 | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 15.3 | 3.19 | 20 | 4640 | 17488 | 3.77 | 3.76 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,620 | 1,110 | UNION BK. SAV. INV. | P | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 1200 | 1.20 | 1.20 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,800 | 3,080 | JOR. INV. FTM. BANK | 21.3 | 0.00 | 13 | 5263 | 18464 | 3.45 | 3.62 | 0.17 | - | - | - | - | |
| 2,200 | 890 | SEIT. AL-NAL (SEITNA) | 6 | 16.30 | 5 | 1000 | 926 | 93 | 92 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 5,150 | 4,240 | ARAB BANKING CO. | 20.5 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 4250 | 4.24 | 4.25 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | INDEX: 239.44 | ICBG: -0.26 | 118 | 99063 | 301417 |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | INDEX: 115.15 | ICBG: 0.00 | 1 | 4 | 22 |
| 1,880 | 1,550 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 9.3 | 5.18 | 152 | 172639 | 326557 | 1.84 | 1.93 | 0.09 | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,270 | 1,320 | THIRD TELECOM. CO. | 20.4 | 3.25 | 2 | 150 | 515 | 3.27 | 3.43 | 0.16 | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,100 | 2,450 | MINERALS | 15.4 | 5.11 | 2 | 940 | 2867 | 2.95 | 3.05 | 0.10 | - | - | - | - | |
| 6,100 | 4,200 | ARAB INTL. HOTELS | 13.1 | 4.69 | 1 | 1800 | 1917 | 4.40 | 4.23 | -0.17 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,550 | 930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | 9 | 0.00 | 12 | 15800 | 21014 | 1.33 | 1.33 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,010 | 820 | REAL ESTATE INV. | 12.9 | 6.45 | 3 | 1300 | 1209 | 92 | 93 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,810 | 480 | JORDAN INTL. TRAD. | 27.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 106 | 51 | 53 | 0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,790 | 1,150 | MID. EAST HOTELS | 18.7 | 0.00 | 3 | 2500 | 3075 | 1.23 | 1.23 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,720 | 2,890 | ARAB INTL. INV. SEC. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 50 | 266400 | 932400 | 1.40 | 1.40 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 2,230 | 1,630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.4 | 6.25 | 1 | 250 | 440 | 1.75 | 1.76 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | INDEX: 110.90 | ICBG: +0.83 | 227 | 460629 | 1290099 |
| 4,450 | 3,220 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 25.9 | 2.86 | 12 | 70670 | 270671 | 2.83 | 3.84 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 7,080 | 5,400 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 14.4 | 3.23 | 8 | 79350 | 488023 | 6.10 | 6.20 | 0.10 | - | - | - | - | |
| 11,000 | 9,070 | JOR. PETROL. REFINERY | 10.6 | 8.15 | 18 | 5150 | 56107 | 10.85 | 10.90 | 0.05 | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,260 | 1,620 | INDUSTRIAL COMPLAGR. | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 365 | 606 | 1.66 | 1.66 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 4,700 | 3,040 | ARAB PHARM. IND. | 12.6 | 4.36 | 20 | 6139 | 22659 | 4.62 | 4.59 | -0.03 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,790 | 1,270 | JOR. PIPES MANFCT. | 15.7 | 6.30 | 3 | 3650 | 4636 | 1.27 | 1.27 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,480 | 1,050 | RAPIA INDUSTRIES | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 150 | 162 | 1.10 | 1.08 | -0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 3,850 | 2,220 | ARAB ALUM. IND. | 5.9 | 10.00 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.48 | 2.48 | 0.00 | - | - | - | - | |
| 960 | 450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 11.6 | 0.00 | 74 | 71000 | 38453 | 54 | 55 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,250 | 1,000 | ARAB PAPER CON. YTD. | 30.6 | 0.00 | 13 | 4100 | 4080 | 1.01 | 1.00 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,420 | 790 | NATIONAL STEEL IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 80 | 80 | 80 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 710 | 510 | NATIONAL IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 83 | 51300 | 28979 | 54 | 57 | 0.03 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,200 | 510 | INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM. | 9 | 0.00 | 9 | 3350 | 1815 | 54 | 55 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 940 | 530 | JOR. ROCKWELL IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 325 | 64 | 65 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 2,980 | 1,480 | UNIV. CHEM. IND. | 13.3 | 0.00 | 2 | 250 | 270 | 1.48 | 1.48 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,670 | 1,120 | ARAB PHARM. CHEM. | 12.7 | 1.73 | 7 | 1730 | 2302 | 1.33 | 1.33 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,880 | 1,080 | UNIV. MOD. INDUS. | P | 2.21 | 9 | 3300 | 4125 | 1.25 | 1.25 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,460 | 900 | JOR. IND. RESOURCES | 12.1 | 11.11 | 6 | 1650 | 1485 | 90 | 90 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,630 | 1,300 | NATL. CHLORINE | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 36000 | 57148 | 1.54 | 1.58 | 0.04 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,070 | 810 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 15.4 | 0.00 | 8 | 1800 | 4284 | 884 | 884 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,330 | 1,080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 6.2 | 0.00 | 5 | 2100 | 3098 | 1.14 | 1.13 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,200 | 860 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 50.0 | 0.00 | 12 | 54300 | 61233 | 1.13 | 1.10 | -0.03 | - | - | - | - | |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | INDEX: 122.42 | ICBG: +0.74 | 271 | 401806 | 1056546 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | INDEX: 175.17 | ICBG: +0.16 | 617 | 961502 | 2648084 |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/09/1997 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 630 | 300 | CENTRAL CHEM. STORAGE | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 500 | 155 | 31 | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 650 | 380 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 10.9 | 0.00 | 12 | 8600 | 3516 | 41 | 41 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 780 | 660 | UNION INV. 507 | 9 | 0.00 | 16 | 41138 | 9661 | 74 | 73 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 570 | 360 | ARAB FIN. INVEST. | 9 | 0.00 | 11 | 23100 | 9019 | 40 | 39 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 950 | 510 | AL-DHAKIRAN 75% | 10.1 | 0.00 | 6 | 14050 | 6744 | 74 | 72 | -0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 540 | 380 | ARAB INTL. INV. SEC. | 46.1 | 0.00 | 2 | 860 | 190 | 64 | 63 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 730 | 580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 75% | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 3500 | 778 | 66 | 66 | -0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 730 | 580 | PHARM. 85% | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 3500 | 778 | 66 | 66 | -0.02 | - | - | - | - | |
| 550 | 290 | INDOS. ENG. | 9 | 0.00 | 21 | 34750 | 10773 | 30 | 31 | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 820 | 590 | NATL. FOUZEK | 8 | 0.00 | 8 | 9000 | 5930 | 67 | 66 | -0.01 | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,000 | 690 | NAT. ALUMINUM 75% | 9 | 0.00 | 11 | 8100 | 3818 | 71 | 71 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,020 | 720 | ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT. | 42.4 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 176 | 84 | 88 | 0.04 | - | - | - | - | |
| 860 | 580 | MID. EAST COMPLEX | 7.6 | 16.13 | 5 | 4250 | 2595 | 62 | 62 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | 130 | 225889 | 105352 | | |

Bjorkman stuns Becker in Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (AFP) — Defending champion Boris Becker made a sad, subdued 6-3, 6-2 exit Wednesday from the opening round of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup as Swede Jonas Bjorkman continued his momentum after a weekend of Davis Cup triumphs.

Bjorkman, whose semi-final showing at the U.S. Open boosted him to a career-best 13th in the world rankings, went from strength to strength as he beat Becker three days after virtually singlehandedly taking Sweden into next month's Davis Cup final against the United States in a 4-1 win against Italy.

Becker lost a 3-1 lead in the opening set and was never able to get back into contention against the 25-year-old Scandinavian.

Despite a lack of Grand Slam results in 1997, organizers gave the 29-year-old Becker a wild card entry into the 16-man field, mainly as a crowd-puller.

But his hopes were dashed in just 68 minutes as Becker lost the first set and went down and out by losing serve three times in the second, error-plagued set despite an early break-back against the Swede.

Australia's new U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter, meanwhile, came through in straight sets to oust Austrian Thomas Muster 6-2, 6-3 for a quarter-final spot.

World No.3 Rafter, kept former World No.1 Muster winless at the special tournament, the single biggest payday in the sport.

The 29-year-old Muster has now lost here six times and has only won a single set out of 11 played.

"I was very surprised with how well I volleyed today," said Rafter, whose team was beaten in a Davis semi-final at the weekend by the Americans led by Pete Sampras.

"My volleys let me down in Davis Cup. But on the faster court here I could steer the ball a little bit



Boris Becker of Germany waves to the crowd to say goodbye after being defeated by Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in his first-round match at the Munich tennis Grand Slam Cup tournament. Becker lost 3-6 2-6 (Reuters photo)

more into the corners. It worked very well today. I'm very happy."

The Queenslander added of his recent U.S. Open title: "It still doesn't feel like I did it. I catch myself

thinking that it was a great achievement. I can't understand why or how."

"But it's important for me to stay the same, to enjoy myself and enjoy life." Also on day two,

Sampras, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, was to face Spain's Felix Mantilla while French Open holder Gustavo Kuerten was taking on Czech Petr Korda.

Referee admits Pallister red card mistake

LONDON (AFP) — Gary Pallister was cleared of the first red card of his eight-year Manchester United career after the referee who sent him off accepted on Wednesday that he had made an error.

England defender Pallister faced a three-match ban after he was dismissed by referee Paul Durkin for a confrontation with Bolton striker Nathan Blake in Saturday's 0-0 draw at the Reebok Stadium.

But Durkin relented after watching the pictures and ruled that Pallister should only have been yellow-carded for "adopting an aggressive attitude."

United boss Alex Ferguson, enraged by the decision and publicly declaring his backing for Pallister, promised the champions would fight the dismissal and send a video of the incident to the Football Association.

But before the tape arrived at FA headquarters, Durkin decided that he had made a mistake and should not have sent the player off.

"He saw the incident from a different angle to the one he originally had and told us in his report that he now felt it should have been a caution," explained FA spokesman Helen Willis.

Heads high at Ferrari

ROME, (AFP) — Ferrari chief Jean Todt urged his team on Wednesday to shrug off the disappointment of the Austrian Grand Prix as they prepare for Sunday's key race at the Nurburgring.

Michael Schumacher, hit by a stop-and-go penalty on Sunday, saw his 10-point lead in the drivers' world championship slashed to a single point after Jacques Villeneuve's victory.

Ferrari also lost their lead in the constructors championship after Villeneuve's teammate Heinz Harald Frentzen finished third in the Williams.

But Todt said: "We have to raise our heads, even during the difficult times. There are three races left to the end of the season and Michael is still top, albeit by one small point."

"We have to remember, though, that we had only had a narrow lead of three points after the Hungarian Grand Prix, but that lead then increased in the following races. What I'm getting at is that anything can happen. 'People have told me that a one-point lead is important psychologically, but I'm saying it could be even more important mathematically — it could be worth the whole season,' said the Frenchman."

"As for the constructors title, we lost 13 points to Williams at Zeltweg and that's a lot of points. There, the situation is a lot more difficult."

Todt still believes that a second place finish was within Schumacher's reach last weekend.

"Despite the fact that he started from back in ninth position, he was one of the key figures in the race," Todt told the Corriere Dello Sport.

"The car went very well, as you can see from the fact that he had the second fastest lap time — barely three tenths of a second behind Villeneuve."

"Unfortunately, there was the problem of the yellow flag which denied the driver and the team an excellent result. But there's no point complaining, there's nothing to be done about it."

The flags were there, others saw them but not Michael because he was concentrating on Frentzen."

Todt was meanwhile cautious about this weekend's Luxembourg Grand Prix, which is being raced at the famous German circuit.

"I know that it's a track for the Williams, and Villeneuve. But let's wait for the race. Whether it goes well or not, we'll see afterwards."

"All I want to say is, I repeat, a one-point lead may

not be much but at least it's something. There are three races to go and I think they are all wide open and we will do everything we possibly can."

"We knew at the start of the season that the Williams was the car to beat, and Ferrari didn't expect to be in such a good position with three left to go in the season."

Schumacher has only scored one point in each of his last two races, partly because the car's shortcomings have come out in qualifying, keeping the former double world champion from the front row.

"We know full well that our F310B is not on the same level as the rival car," Todt said. "But my hope is that in 1998 we can have a more competitive machine right from the start of the season."

The Frenchman also sought to shift any blame from Schumacher's Ulster teammate Eddie Irvine, who hasn't scored a point since June.

"It's true that Frentzen has yielded more than Irvine," he admitted.

"But it also has to be said that Villeneuve didn't need his teammate to get 10 points on Sunday."

Aussie spies check out World Cup opposition

SYDNEY (AFP) — Terry Venables' deputies will be scouting Australia's potential opponents over the next few weeks in the leadup to November's final World Cup regional football qualifier.

Australia's national team deputy coach Raul Blanco and fellow assistant Les Scheinflug are compiling a dossier on their spying mission to be fully prepared for the deciding matches against the fourth-placed Asian team on November 22 and 29.

"We'll study them upside down, back to front, inside out, and we'll have a very good dossier on every team — much better than they can have on us," Blanco said Wednesday.

"We'll be identifying their techniques, tactics and players, and all this must give us an advantage."

But Blanco, who earmarks Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan or the United Arab Emirates as Australia's likely opponent, admits the cohesion gained from playing several World Cup qualifiers in a short

period will help the Asian qualifying teams.

The Argentine-born Blanco will fly to Tunis for Australia's warm-up international against Tunisia on October 1, their only match in preparation for the World Cup decider.

Blanco flies to Kuwait City Wednesday for Friday's Kuwait-Iran match and moves to Tokyo for the crunch South Korea-Japan game this weekend.

He will complete his journey when he flies from Tunis to Seoul for South Korea's match against the United Arab Emirates.

Blanco already has some information on the Asian teams for England-based Australian team boss Venables after attending the Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates last December.

Scheinflug flies to Doha Wednesday for Qatar's game against China on Friday and will also keep watch on next week's China-Saudi Arabia match in Dalian.

Fulham after Keegan

LONDON (AFP) — Mohammad Al Fayed, multi-millionaire owner of second division Fulham, has targeted Kevin Keegan as club chief executive in a bid to bring the good times back to Craven Cottage.

Harrods chief Al Fayed, who paid £30 million (\$50 million) to buy the ailing club in the summer, hopes to persuade the former Newcastle United boss to make a remarkable return to football as part of a 'dream team' management duo alongside former England team-mate Ray Wilkins.

Keegan stunned the football world when he quit St James' Park last January after five years in charge and has insisted he has no desire to return to management.

But last week he admitted for the first time that he might come back to football in some capacity if the right opportunity presented itself, although he was not commenting on Wednesday's rumours.

Thrust SCC brend-speed record

AFP — Thrust SCC, Rolls Royce engines, speed record on Tuesday 1:15.307 kilometres per hour in Nevada's Black Rock Desert.

The 1990 SCC, the British team doing the test, was not considered a vehicle must set the record. The 1.6 kilometre one-way run over the same distance in the two tests must be completed in one hour, something the Thrust SCC did.

The 1990 SCC, the British team doing the test, was not considered a vehicle must set the record. The 1.6 kilometre one-way run over the same distance in the two tests must be completed in one hour, something the Thrust SCC did.

Violent Arsenal

AFP — Arsenal's worst season in the Premier League has led to the club's chairman, Peter Brundage, saying that the club's players must be considered a 'violent' team.

Brundage, who has been in charge since the club's relegation from the top flight last season, said the club's players must be considered a 'violent' team.

Brundage, who has been in charge since the club's relegation from the top flight last season, said the club's players must be considered a 'violent' team.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Yeboah completes switch

LEEDS, England (AFP) — Tony Yeboah's unhappy period at Leeds United finally came to an end Wednesday when the explosive striker completed his on-off move to German outfit Hamburg. The Ghanaian's return to the Bundesliga — where he used to play for Saarbrücken and Eintracht Frankfurt — had been delayed over tax problems. But these have now been ironed out and Yeboah, 31, has signed a two-year contract at Hamburg despite late interest from Turkish side Trabzonspor and Lecce of Italy. Yeboah, who was brought to the club by former manager Howard Wilkinson in 1995, quickly fell out of favour with George Graham. And he never played for the first team again after throwing his shirt at the United dug-out when he was substituted at Tottenham last March.

Real hunting French stars

MADRID (AFP) — Real Madrid are looking to capture three French stars as the Spanish champions bid to retain their title, with Metz duo Robert Pires and Bruno Rodriguez top of their list alongside Monaco's young striker David Trezeguet. As reported on Wednesday, Pires, 24, and Trezeguet, 20, have already had contact with Real's chief 'headhunter' Jose Martinez Pirri. As said, The trio would have the double advantage for Real of being EU players as well as Spanish-speaking but are all currently under contract. Real still hope to land Sampdoria's Christian Karembeu but have given up the struggle for Monaco's precocious striker Thierry Henry.

Yorke backs Collymore

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Aston Villa's record signing Stan Collymore, under fire after scoring just once since his multi-million move from Liverpool, received a boost Wednesday from striking partner Dwight Yorke, who insisted their link-up was primed for success. Villa had Tuesday told Collymore to pull his socks up after the Midlands crashed 3-0 at Anfield on Monday for their fifth defeat of the season during which he was booed every time he touched the ball. But Yorke insisted that his teammate has what it takes to make Villa great again after Villa coach Allan Evans bluntly told Collymore his contribution so far was just "not good enough." Trinidadian star Yorke said: "I think our partnership has got half a chance. The important thing is that we are working hard and overall have been starting to create a lot more chances. 'As time goes on, that partnership should continue to build and hopefully become the most feared in the Premiership. 'I personally believe that the sky is the limit for Stan. We all are aware of how talented he is. He is a tremendous player."

World Cup tie threatened

ATHENS (AFP) — Professional footballers in Greece threatened on Wednesday to disrupt the Greece v Denmark World Cup qualifying tie on October 11 by going on strike to protest at a growing influx of foreign players. The players' union made the threat in a statement following a move by the Greek football federation to allow clubs to field six non EU-players rather than four as previously. Howls of protest immediately followed with players threatening to stop playing for ten minutes during Sunday's matches prior to a general strike on October 5. But the president of the league of professional clubs, Stelios

Sfakanakis, said he would if necessary take legal action to prevent the "unjustified" strike from going ahead.

Gough set for Ibrox return

LONDON (AFP) — Former Rangers skipper Richard Gough is set to return to Ibrox to solve the Glaswegians' defensive crisis — when his contract in the United States comes to an end, turning down Graeme Souness' Torino. Gough, who led the Gers to their record-equalling ninth title in a row before heading for Kansas City Wizards in the U.S. Major Soccer League, is wanted by manager Walter Smith to fill the breach left by four million pound Italian Lorenzo Amoroso, who is injured. Former Gers boss Souness saw Gough as the ideal man to lead Torino back into Serie A and believed he had secured the 35-year-old defender's services. But Gough, whose U.S. sojourn finishes next month, told the Daily Express: "I had a loose agreement to go to Turin and play for Graeme Souness at Torino and it was something that excited me. 'However, Rangers allowed me to leave for nothing and there was always a gentleman's agreement between myself, David Murray and Walter Smith that if they ever needed me to come back I would come. 'The only way the situation will change is if Graeme Souness reaches an agreement with David Murray and Walter Smith."



VfL Wolfsburg's Roy Praeger (L) fights for the ball with Bayern Munich's Markus Babel during the first half of their soccer match. Wolfsburg and Munich play the second round match of Germany's soccer cup. Munich won 4-3 on penalties after a 3-3 draw (Reuters photo)

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| PHILADELPHIA "1" | | PHILADELPHIA "2" | | PLAZA | | CONCORD | | GALLERIA 1 | | GALLERIA 2 | | | |
| Bruce Willis...in | | Robin Williams & Gene Hackman...in | | | | CONCORD "1" | | ABDOUN | | ABDOUN | | Watch out for the new play | |
| THE FIFTH ELEMENT | | THE BIRDCAGE | | BAD COMPANY | | Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Danny DeVito & Pierce Brosnan...in | | John Travolta & Nicolas Cage...in | | Julia Roberts...in | | THE GOVERNMENT | |
| Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | | MARS ATTACKS | | FACE OFF | | MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING | | IN THE SERVICE | |
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| | | | | | | CONCORD "2" | | | | | | Starring Hisham Yari and Amal Dabbas | |
| | | | | | | BATMAN & ROBIN | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only | | | | | | | |

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCES

STARTING OF ITALIAN CLASS

OCTOBER 1997. AT "TERRA SANTA

CEGE" IN JABAL LWEIBDEH, AM

Classes on Saturday, Monday and Wednes

from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6 to 7:30

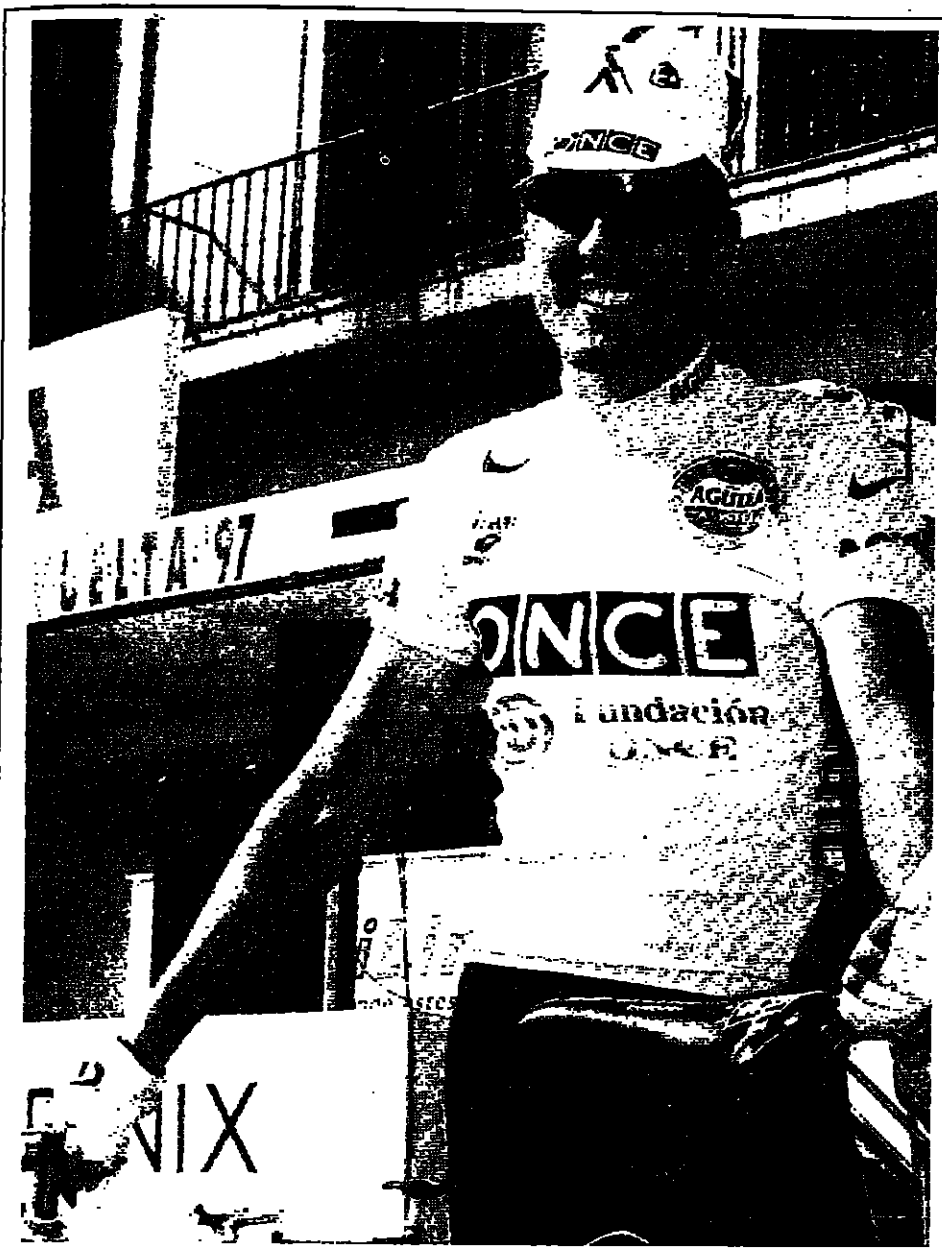
See 1030 (4 October-18 December 1997)

REGISTRATION: TERRA SANTA CO

(on) on September 24, 27, 29 from 4 p.m

(You can meet your teachers.)

INFORMATION: Italian Embassy (Tel. 6



Yellow jersey holder Swiss Alex Zuelle smiles as he makes a thumbs-up sign at the start of the 184km 18th stage of the Tour of Spain cycling race (Reuters photo)

Spurs set to swoop for Ravanelli

LONDON (AFP) — Middlesbrough's unsettled Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli is being linked with a move to Tottenham, who he would join on a loan deal to help the London club through its current injury crisis.

Boro manager Bryan Robson confirmed on Wednesday that there has been fresh interest in the former Juventus ace.

"We had a meeting with Fabrizio earlier in the week. A couple of clubs are interested in him. Fabrizio will talk with them and then a decision will be made," said Robson.

British newspapers are full of speculation linking Ravanelli with Spurs and Tottenham boss boss Gerry Francis has not denied his interest in the silver-haired striker, back in Italy this week after renewed talks about his future.

Robson has already made it clear the Italian does not figure in his plans for the Teesiders.

And Francis said: "We have inquiries lodged with several clubs because our situation with front-players has become critical."

"I never talk about other clubs' players but it may be important for us to get somebody in quickly to tide us over until people like Les Ferdinand, Steffen Iversen are ready to come back from injuries."

"It is not only them. Rory Allen and Paul McVeigh are also injured and Chris Armstrong has been out a long time. We would like to do something, maybe a loan-deal."

"The alternative is going down into the First Division because we are not allowed to loan players from another Premier League club. There are not exactly a million quality strikers available."

If Spurs land Ravanelli on loan they could be given the option of keeping him permanently after an initial three-month period.

And Middlesbrough, now desperate to offload the striker who scored 31 goals for them last season but has only rarely been seen since they were relegated at the end of last season, could be receptive to such a suggestion.

Spurs' striker situation is desperate after only one goal in their last four League games.

Women's Basketball Championship Orthodoxi meet Ahli as 2nd round opens Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The second round of the Kingdom's Women's Basketball Championship opens Friday when leaders Al Orthodoxi meet Al Ahli hoping to continue their winning streak and regain the title they last won in 1994.

Al Orthodoxi, who had finished third for the past two seasons, won both first round matches defeating Al Ahli 67-50. They later got an added boost after scoring an 89-36 win over titleholders Al Jazireh sending a clear message that they are serious about getting back the title.

Although Al Ahli do not seem able to win the title this year, their 69-45 win over Al Jazireh was a clear indication that the titleholders would not be able to retain their crown.

First round results show that Al Orthodoxi have the clear upper hand to win the three-team event.

While onlookers expected Al Jazireh to rebound after their first defeat, the team seems to have been abandoned by almost all of its veteran players and are not expected to display a different form in the second round.

Adding to the fact that the absence of many players has taken its toll, the team has evidently not prepared seriously for the competition resigning to the fact that they cannot win the title this year.

The three competing teams are mostly made up of national team players who took part in the Pan-Arab Games in July in addition to the younger players on the teams.

Al Jazireh are missing most of their original lineup for a host of personal reasons.

The team is led by Rana Hussein and includes Hala Ghattas and a younger lineup in the surprising absence of Hala Muheisen, Tala Al Mauge, Rania Dajani, Indeirah Qaseisieh and Tamara Khadra — all key national team players the last three of which also failed to show up for the national teams matches at the Pan-Arab Games.

Al Orthodoxi might seem to have the most coherent and prepared lineup this year after having played as juniors for the past three seasons and gaining experience from their national team matches. The players also had training matches in Syria recently.

The team includes Hind Ghouri, Zina Farah, Luma Abu Judum, Hala Khalaf and Lubna Masri.

Al Ahli have been training under new coach Raffi Cholukyan after a makeover in the clubs basketball management and the handing of the reins to new officials hoping to bring back the club's glorious basketball achievements.

The team includes Sirsa Nagahway, Sirsa Abaza, Ruwa Hijazi, Zein Shasha' and Teryana Qardan.

Jordanian soccer celebrates FIFA Fair Play Day

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to a request by soccer's world governing body FIFA of designating a Fair Play Day, Jordan joined 197 countries in celebration, raising the yellow and blue flag before the beginning of matches this week.

FIFA chose those days as the first ever world Fair Play Day as it fell in the busiest period of soccer world-wide and also coincided with the final of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup Championship which took place in Egypt.

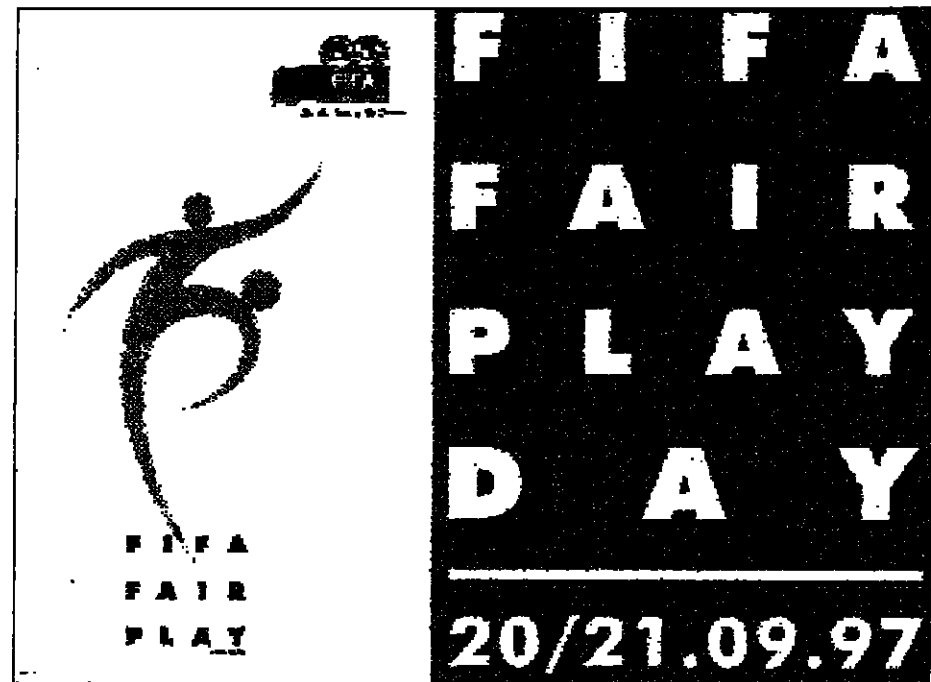
Now, FIFA is planning to promote the idea of having a Fair Play Day as a yearly celebration.

This week, Fair Play Day was the centre of soccer attention all around the world.

In England, children carried oversized FIFA Fair Play flags at all the Premier League matches.

In Germany, children walked hand-in-hand with the players at all the Bundesliga matches.

In Nigeria, celebrations went to schools with seminars and a national essay writing competition on



the theme of Fair Play. In Chile, teams winning matches will stand to applaud their beaten opponents.

An exception was in Italy as FIFA's Fair Play Day went unnoticed, with the booing, hacking and elbowing carried out as usual.

Jordan Football Association (JFA) joined the world in marking the Fair Play Day here in the Kingdom.

"Jordanian soccer being part of the sporting world, celebrated this day in Amman as part of the world's celebrations," JFA Technical Committee member Bassam Haroun told the Jordan Times.

The JFA organised matches and lectures to introduce the Fair Play Day concept to athletes of the Kingdom. "We had several matches during the two-day cel-

ebrations, including an opening ceremony and lectures," Dr. Haroun said.

Several schools in Amman gave their students a clear picture of the idea.

"We have asked schools to promote the idea of Fair Play Day in their morning sessions with posters to be hanged at school's premises" he said.

Thrust SCC breaks world land-speed record ... unofficially

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Thrust SCC, equipped with two Rolls Royce engines, broke its own land-speed record on Tuesday by hitting 1,157,307 kilometres (719,137 miles) per hour in Nevada's Black Rock desert.

Its speed peaked at 1,160,305 kilometres (721 miles) per hour, the British team doing the test said in its Internet site.

But the speed will not be considered a real record since the vehicle must set the speed record on the 1.6 kilometre (one mile) track and then return over the same track the other direction. The two tests must be completed within an hour, something which has not happened.

The vehicle hit 1,107,103 kilometres (687,941 miles) per hour on the 1.6 kilo-

metre (one mile) Monday but the return test was not done then either.

Promoters say their goal is to break the sound barrier.

The head of the British team, Richard Noble, 51, set the current land speed record on October 4, 1983 when he went 1,019.44 kilometres (633.468 miles) per hour.

Noble is not driving on this test but has turned the job over to Andy Green, a 35-year-old jet fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force.

A second team, "Spirit of America," is also at Black Rock trying to break Noble's record. Its head, Craig Breedlove, has broken three speed records.

'Violent' Arsenal under FA scrutiny

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal, who have the worst disciplinary record in the English Premiership, have been told by the Football Association (FA) that they have until Christmas to clean up their act.

The Gunners finished bottom of last season's Fair Play League and their start to this campaign has been just as poor, with 18 bookings plus a further three the UEFA Cup.

With the season less than two months old, FA chiefs are looking to address the problem early on.

If Arsenal, who have always had a reputation as a no-nonsense, physical team, continue to collect cards at the current rate, manager Arsene Wenger could find himself sitting

before the authorities before the new year.

An FA official confirmed Wednesday the authorities will look at Arsenal's disciplinary record at Christmas and, if necessary, would invite the club to discuss the situation.

Last season Arsenal's roll of shame consisted of 82 yellow cards and five red ones and on Tuesday they were branded "violent" by Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf, who was sent off in Sunday's 3-2 defeat by the Gunners.

Leboeuf said: "Arsenal are the toughest in the Premiership. Far worse than Wimbledon. They are fine players but are physical now and allowed to get away with things. Too many illegal tackles and

tactics."

Wenger hit back: "I never tell any one of my players to go and kick an opponent. If you don't show competitive spirit you will lose games, but if you just want to fight you will also lose. We are not a dirty side and shouldn't, and will not, change the way we play."

Arsenal are second in the Premiership, two points behind Manchester United, and would go top tonight if they beat West Ham at Highbury and United lose at home to Chelsea.

A Furnished Apartment For Rent

Consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, guest lounge, dining room, sitting room, central heating, telephone and satellite. Location: Sweifiyeh, near the American School.

If interested, call Tel: 825509 (between 8:00 a.m.-14:00 p.m.). After that call Tel: 840550.

The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities' Celebrations on the occasion of the World Tourism Day

On the occasion of the World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, 1997, the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities will organise a Fire Works' Show on Friday 26th of Sept. 1997, at 7:45 p.m. at the Amman Citadel.

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

FOR RENT IN AL-RABIA
Furnished or unfurnished floors. Each floor consists of 4 bedrooms, spacious salons and 4 bathrooms.
For more information, please call: 5510107

APARTMENT FOR RENT
320sq.m.
3 bedrooms, maid's room, 2 large terraces, 2nd/top floor, private entrance, quiet neighbourhood.
Location: Al Rabia - Amman
Call: 631998 - 642553

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Furnished one-bedroom flat-cozy and in a quiet area - with central heating and telephone. Located in Jabal Amman, 7th Circle, near the Royal Automobile Club.
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SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT
A luxuriously furnished apartment in a new building. Consists of 3 bedrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 salons, 3 bathrooms, independent central heating, garage, water well and a lift. Location: Tla'a Al Ali, behind Yathreb compound.
Please call Tel.: 683110, 701280.

JORDAN TIMES
FAX: 696183

THE ITALIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCES

THE STARTING OF ITALIAN CLASSES ON 4 OCTOBER 1997, AT "TERRA SANTA COLLEGE" IN JABAL LWEIBDEH, AMMAN. Classes on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Fees: JD30 (4 October-10 December 1997)

REGISTRATION: TERRA SANTA COLLEGE (only) on September 24, 27, 29 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (You can meet your teachers).

INFORMATION: Italian Embassy (Tel. 638185)

The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities' Celebrations on the occasion of the World Tourism Day

On the occasion of the World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, 1997, the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities will inaugurate the Odeon Theatre in Amman adjacent to the Roman Amphitheatre.

On this occasion the Ministry will organise a musical performance on Friday 26th of Sept. 1997, at 8:00 p.m. at the Odeon Theatre.

Buses will be available at 7:00 p.m. in front of Philadelphia Hotel to convey guests to the festival's location. A parking lot is available behind Amman Municipality's main Library along the main street of the Hashemite Court for other guests who wishes to bring their own cars.

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities



Under the patronage of
HRH Princess Sarvath El-Hassan

the
AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL
will host its

FIFTH ABS ANNUAL CHARITY FUNFAIR

The fair will be an all day event which will be held in the school on Friday, September 26th 1997, from 10 am till 5 pm.

The fair will feature various games, prizes, live performances, raffle tickets, roller blading, varieties of food, fashion shows & exhibits of various products.

All proceeds will go to the Jordanian Society for Therapeutic Riding, Al Hussein Society for the Handicapped, YMWA & other charity centres.

Entrance fee: JD 1

Blair faces major dilemma over nurses trial in Saudi

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister Tony Blair was juggling British public and economic interests as a stunned press and public pushed him to save two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Blair is facing one of his toughest diplomatic challenges since taking office five months ago, with ties to Saudi Arabia and \$4 billion in British trade at stake.

It is also a challenge to Labour's declared aim of making human rights one of the central considerations of its policy-making.

Nurse Lucille McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, Scotland, was found guilty of helping Deborah Parry, 38, from southern England, murder an Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford. McLaughlin was sentenced to eight years jail and to be flogged 500 times.

Confusion remained over whether Parry had been sentenced to death or whether the victim's brother had waived his rights to influence the sentence by accepting money, which would rule this out.

The Foreign Office said Wednesday that it was trying to contact lawyers in the case to clarify the position.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook has already described the verdict on McLaughlin as "unacceptable" and said such physical punishment should not be inflicted on anyone in today's world.

He plans to raise the issue Friday with Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York which he is attending.

The row is the most serious between the two countries since the 1980 BBC film "Death of a Princess," a dramatized documentary showing the executions of a Saudi princess convicted of adultery and her lover.

That lasted for four months after the broadcast, though commercial repercussions were felt by British businesses with Saudi interests for much longer.

Britain's reputation as a refuge for Middle East political exiles has often led to diplomatic friction. Last year governmental decision to expel Saudi dissident

Mohammad Al Masari under Saudi pressure was reversed by a British court.

More recently the Saudi royal family was ruffled by the conviction in absentia of King Fahd's sister accused of having maltreated three Filipino servants.

Britain's exports to Saudi Arabia last year totalled \$2.5 billion, mostly in arms sales, and 60,000 Britons depend on the country for their livelihood. This year exports are expected to top three billion.

London is currently looking for a big new order from the Saudis hoping to sell up to 400 planes through the Eurofighter consortium with Germany, Italy and Spain. A deal could be worth up to 10 billion pounds.

The latest row and potential threat to arms sales sent shares of leading weapons manufacturers lower on the London stock exchange.

The sentence against McLaughlin provoked a strong reaction in the British press. The Daily Mirror called the sentence "barbaric" and said Mr. Blair should be leading the fight to change the sentences. It said "these bestial floggings should be stopped" not just for the sake of the nurses but for the sake of Saudi Arabia.

The Daily Telegraph described the sentence as "repulsive to the liberal mind" but it warned against an overhasty reaction. It said that by threatening Saudi Arabia with retaliation Mr. Cook "could prejudice the nurses' position and make physical punishment more likely. It said the correct approach to Riyadh was to "plead, not to threaten."

The Independent presented the trial as a dilemma for Saudi Arabia's King Fahd: "Islamic justice versus Western values," read its headline.

It added that Mr. Blair might have to make a personal visit to the country to plead the nurses' case.

Several papers said it would be wrong to equate the British and Saudi legal systems. The Daily Mail said Islamic justice was noted for its severity but also on the need for compassion over whether sentences were actually carried out.

Saudi Ambassador to London Ghazi Al Qosabi

Lawyer says Saudi death threat lifted in \$1.2m deal

DUBAI (AFP) — The defence lawyer of two British nurses on trial for murder in Saudi Arabia said Wednesday that the Australian victim's brother had signed a \$1.2-million settlement to lift any threat of a death sentence.

Meanwhile, the Saudi legal system, kept silent on the fate of Deborah Parry who would risk being beheaded if convicted, and not spared, for the murder of fellow nurse Yvonne Gilford. But it came in for flak in Britain for a flogging sentence against her convicted colleague Lucille McLaughlin.

"There has been a settlement. It has been signed by Mr. [Frank] Gilford, and the two nurses," insisted lawyer Salah Hejailan, contacted by Agence France Presse, denying reports that a deal had yet to be struck.

A decision over whether 41-year-old Parry is executed, if finally judged to be guilty of the "intentional murder" of Gilford, would lie in the hands of her brother Frank under the Saudi kingdom's Sharia law.

Mr. Gilford himself has since the trial opened in May refused to accept the option of mercy, saying, "after all, my little sister, my mother's baby girl, was savagely murdered."

But Mr. Hejailan said that under the deal Mr. Gilford was to receive "700,000 dollars for himself" and around \$500,000 would go to a hospital in South Australia where he lives.

"Once you talk about money, a specific amount of money, the issue of a death sentence can no longer be raised. He [Gilford] cannot change his mind," the Saudi lawyer said by telephone.

He said that the judgement would still have to go through three other stages, the appeal court, the supreme appeal court and then the royal court before any sentence was carried out.

from Virginia in the U.S. Mr. Hejailan said an appeal would be launched to collect funds from the British public.

But lawyers in Australia for the defence of Parry and McLaughlin and for the Gilford family earlier denied that any such settlement had been finalised.

And the Gilford family said the brother had yet to decide whether to exercise his right under Sharia law to spare Parry's life if she is guilty and to accept blood money, or "diya".

"Most of the money is going to him, and he may have been disturbed by that," being revealed, Mr. Hejailan said, trying to explain the discrepancy. "It's a lot of money for a taxi-driver."

The lawyer said Mr. Gilford, a 59-year-old grandfather who runs a courier service, "approached us for a settlement" after facing the prospect of a law suit for undermining the process of justice in Saudi Arabia.

On Tuesday, McLaughlin, 31, from Scotland, was condemned to eight years in prison and 500 lashes as an accessory to the murder of Gilford at a hospital in the eastern Saudi city of Dammam on December 11.

Mr. Hejailan denied a report on Tuesday from the Saudi lawyers for the Gilford family that Parry had already been convicted and said an appeal would be lodged for McLaughlin on Oct. 4 at the Sharia court in Khobar, near Dhahran.

The flogging sentence drew flak from the British government, newspapers and Amnesty International, raising fears in Britain's stock market of a diplomatic row that could harm lucrative arms contracts with the Gulf state.

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FREE VANUNU: An Israeli protester wears a cutout mask of Mordechai Vanunu during a demonstration Wednesday at the prison where the former worker at Israel's nuclear facility at Dimona is held in jail. A group plans daily 'free Vanunu' demonstrations leading up to September 30, the day which marks Vanunu's 11th anniversary of Israeli imprisonment. Vanunu leaked Israel's nuclear secrets to a London newspaper and a short while later was abducted while in Rome and brought secretly to Israel (Reuters photo)

Netanyahu used censorship for personal gain — deputies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Opposition leaders accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday of abusing Israel's military censorship law to ensure that the results of a probe into recent suicide bombings would not be released until he returned from a foreign visit.

Leaders of the Labour and Meretz parties said Mr. Netanyahu delayed until Tuesday the announcement that Israel's secret service had finally identified four of five men who carried out suicide bombings in Jerusalem on July 30 and September 4 in order to take personal credit for the breakthrough.

News that investigators had used blood tests on relatives of four suspects from the same West Bank town to positively identify them as the suicide bombers became widely known to foreign and local reporters in Israel over the weekend.

But the media was barred from publishing the information by military censors.

However, on Sunday Mr. Netanyahu himself leaked details of the probe during a visit to Vienna, saying he had obtained information giving him a "100 per cent certainty" the bombers came from the West Bank. Palestinian officials had insisted the bombers came from abroad.

The press was only allowed to publish the identities of the four bombers late Tuesday, after Mr. Netanyahu returned from his two-day Austrian trip.

"This was intended to enable Netanyahu to attribute the fight against terrorism to himself, and for this he withheld information until his return from abroad," charged Haim Oron, a member of parliament from the leftist Meretz Party.

Labour Party leader Ehud Barak for his part lashed out at Netanyahu's "self-styled counter-terrorism expert, implying it was only on instructions from the prime minister's office that the Shin Bet secret service was able to locate the bombers."

"Shin Bet's triumph had nothing to do with any instructions or agreements," said Mr. Barak, a former army chief of staff. "They have been working all the time to ensure security, their prowess has been built up over the years."

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, denied there had been any manipulation of the censors.

"We wanted to extend the censorship because the investigation is still continuing" to find the fifth bomber and their accomplices, he told Israel radio.

"But it was impossible to continue because information on the investigation was being published in the Palestinian press," he said.

Twenty Israelis were killed and more than 300 wounded in the two multi-suicide bombings at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market and Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall.

Police said they were still trying to identify the fifth bomber. (See story on page 1).

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Police said they were still trying to identify the fifth bomber. (See story on page 1).

Streets, shops half-deserted as fearful Israelis stay home

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Jewish new year is traditionally a time of frenetic shopping, but this year the malls are half-deserted.

Israelis, who have earned a reputation for courage in the face of war and terrorism, have retreated to their homes in the wake of two recent bombings, keeping their children away from Jerusalem's malls, the downtown centre and even the zoo.

Despair and confusion are pervasive, with a frequently heard complaint being that Israel is being bombed when the peace process is moving forward and bombed when it is deadlocked.

"Terror is more frightening when you're not going anywhere in the political process," said Hemi Shalev, an Israeli commentator for the daily Maariv newspaper.

The heart of the shopping district in Jerusalem is the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, which — until a suicide bombing there Sept. 4 — was packed with tourists and Israelis from noon until mid-

night. The relative emptiness of the streets is particularly noticeable in the traditionally busy shopping time before the Rosh Hashana holiday that begins Oct. 1, when Jews usher in the new year.

"You can see the fear in the customers' eyes. They're ordering pizza and looking around in every direction for something suspicious," said Eran Moore, the manager of the New York-based Italian eatery Shbaro, on the Ben Yehuda mall. Tables are empty and pizzas sit untouched under a heat lamp.

A wave of suicide attacks early last year led to a change in the government, with Benjamin Netanyahu becoming prime minister on a platform of "peace with security."

Mr. Shalev said people had begun to believe that Mr. Netanyahu was capable of bringing an end to terror during his first year in office — when there were no major attacks.

But the return of such

attacks to their streets has ignited a sense of hopelessness in some Israelis.

The three suicide bombers that hit Ben Yehuda earlier this month killed five people. On July 30, a suicide attack on a crowded market in Jerusalem killed 17 people.

"I want it to stop. I want decision. I want to know where we stand," said Yvonne Akoubis, 65, a retiree from Tel Aviv who lives two blocks away from a cafe where three women and a bomber died in an attack in March.

"Governments used to make decisions here and tell us. Now, there is nothing but fear," she said.

Keeping that fear alive are reports that there are more bombers ready to strike.

At a new shopping mall in Tel Aviv Saturday, a hundred shoppers ran for the exits when a security guard told them they had to leave because there was a "problem." The problem was only that the mall was closing for the Sabbath.

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Flight held up 24 hours after mouse spotted

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A London-bound British Airways 747 was prevented from leaving Johannesburg International Airport as scheduled Monday night after a rodent stowaway was spotted on board. The flight was postponed for 24 hours while the aircraft was fumigated and technically checked. Some passengers were booked on other flights, while the rest were put up in hotels. Passengers were heard muttering about a South African rat without a ticket trying to cop a first-class ride. However, by Tuesday afternoon, the nationality of the rodent had not been determined.

Cartoon strip on Mother Teresa's life planned

ROME (AFP) — A cartoon strip on the life of Mother Teresa is to appear in the Italian children's newspaper Il Giornalino, management at the publication announced. The story of the world's most famous missionary who died September 5 will run over four editions of the weekly newspaper and be told in 40 illustrations of her life and work. "In the parable, Jesus explained that each of us must be equal to the talent that he has received from God and we, who know how to do illustrations, have chosen to offer the memory of Mother Teresa in a cartoon," explained Tommaso Mastrandrea, director of Il Giornalino. The paper has a circulation of 200,000.

Want to buy some fake U.S. dollars, officer?

HONG KONG (R) — The cop was really a crook, the other crook was really a secret agent, and the bank notes were fake. Former Hong Kong policeman Dicky Lau was in court for trying to sell counterfeit 1930s U.S. dollar bills to a U.S. secret service agent, the South China Morning Post said on Wednesday. Would-be buyer Alan Zygowicz, Lau, and a middleman who brought together Lau and Zygowicz, haggled over the deal in a hotel room in Hong Kong's Wanchai district while police waited in an adjoining room, a court heard on Tuesday.

U2 rock Bosnia and unite what governments could not

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Rock giants U2 staged an emotional mega concert in the Bosnian capital Tuesday amid tight security in front of an estimated 40,000 fans from all three of Bosnia's former warring factions.

Sarajevo's first major rock concert since the end of the war two years ago reached its climax with the song "Miss Sarajevo," recorded to highlight the suffering of ordinary Bosnians. A sign of the times was the 5,000 NATO soldiers in the audience, drawn from multi-national peacekeeping units across the country.

Don't feed hot dogs to guide dogs, say blind

WASHINGTON (R) — Feeding hot dogs to guide dogs is wrong and people should ignore the example set in a recent ad for Levi Strauss jeans, two organisations for the blind said. "This ad is irresponsible and places guide dog teams in danger," the dog may become sick from the food," guide dog users and the American Council of the Blind said in a joint statement issued on Tuesday. It said that since the jeans advertisement first went on television, blind people have reported incidents of harassment and interference, including the feeding of the dogs.

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Algerian Islamist rebel group declares ceasefire next week

BONN (AFP) — The military wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) announced a ceasefire in Algeria as of Wednesday next week, in a statement made available to Agence France Presse Wednesday.

The statement from the Islamic Salvation Army (ISA), in French and dated September 21, was signed by its national leader Madani Mezerga.

Its release came two days after up to 200 people were slaughtered near Algiers in one of the worst massacres since an Islamist insurgency flared in 1992.

The hardline group blamed for most of the violence of recent years is called the Armed Islamic Group, or GIA.

"The national emir of the

Islamic Salvation Army orders all chiefs of fighting companies under his command to halt combat operations as of Oct. 1, 1997 and calls for all other groups committed to the religious and national interests to join this appeal so that the enemy hiding behind abominable massacres can be unveiled, as well as the GIA criminals and those hiding behind it," the statement read.

It was dated before armed men reportedly butchered and burned scores of people, mostly women and children, overnight Monday in the latest of a series of horrific massacres.

The ISA said it had been trying for a long time to make its longstanding enemies realise that they shared a responsibility for Algeria so

that "the sons of Algeria are encouraged to work together for the return of security and stability and to lead the country out of the crisis."

It said that the government had taken a few appeasement measures, such as releasing FIS leader Sheikh Abassi Madani, but appeasement also encouraged longstanding enemies to fan the fires of discord and scuttle projects that would help Algeria and its citizens.

The statement denounced "abominable carnage rarely seen in modern human history which recalls the terrible events which our people lived through before independence."

It also calls on Algerians to stand united, saying "the situation is dangerous and the conspiracy huge."

Qadhafi changes his mind on Diana's death

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi executed an apparent U-turn Tuesday over the death of Princess Diana, going back on an earlier assertion that she was the victim of a plot by British and French secret services.

On Tuesday he pointed the finger at Britain's royal family and told Libyan state-run television it was not possible that Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Labour government were responsible for Diana's death in a high speed car crash in Paris. In a live interview monitored in neighbouring Tunisia, Col. Qadhafi linked the death of Princess Diana with the Lockerbie air disaster and the sanctions imposed against Libya for its alleged role in the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Scotland in which 270 people died.

"They [the United States and Britain] accused us in Lockerbie, saying without any evidence that two Libyans bombed the plane," Col. Qadhafi said. "[But] we say that Britain is running into an affair bigger than the Lockerbie one. We must put the affair to the [U.N.] Security Council. The accusation is directed at the royal family, not at the British cabinet or the Labour Party," he added.

Albright meets officials over Cyprus issue

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met Wednesday with the foreign ministers of Greece and the Greek-led government of Cyprus to see if the impasse over the divided island can be overcome after the breakdown of U.N.-brokered talks.

Ms. Albright was to meet later in the day with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem.

Before meeting Ms. Albright, Cypriot Foreign Minister Yiannakis Kasoulides conferred with

U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy on Cyprus, Richard Holbrooke.

Mr. Holbrooke is architect of the 1995 Dayton agreement that ended the Bosnian war.

He described his meeting with Mr. Kasoulides as "very cordial." Topics included "how to deal with the Cyprus issue" and "how to make the EU accession," he said.

He was referring to planned talks between the European Union and the Greek-led Cyprus govern-

ment. Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş broke off U.N.-sponsored talks in Switzerland after the EU said it was pushing ahead with negotiations on EU membership for the Greek-led administration.

"I think everyone is in a more productive mood than they were at the beginning of the year," Mr. Holbrooke said. "They haven't addressed the issues, but the fact that they are talking is exceedingly important."

He cautioned to keep expectations low and not to expect any breakthrough.

Egypt to make it difficult for Israelis

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